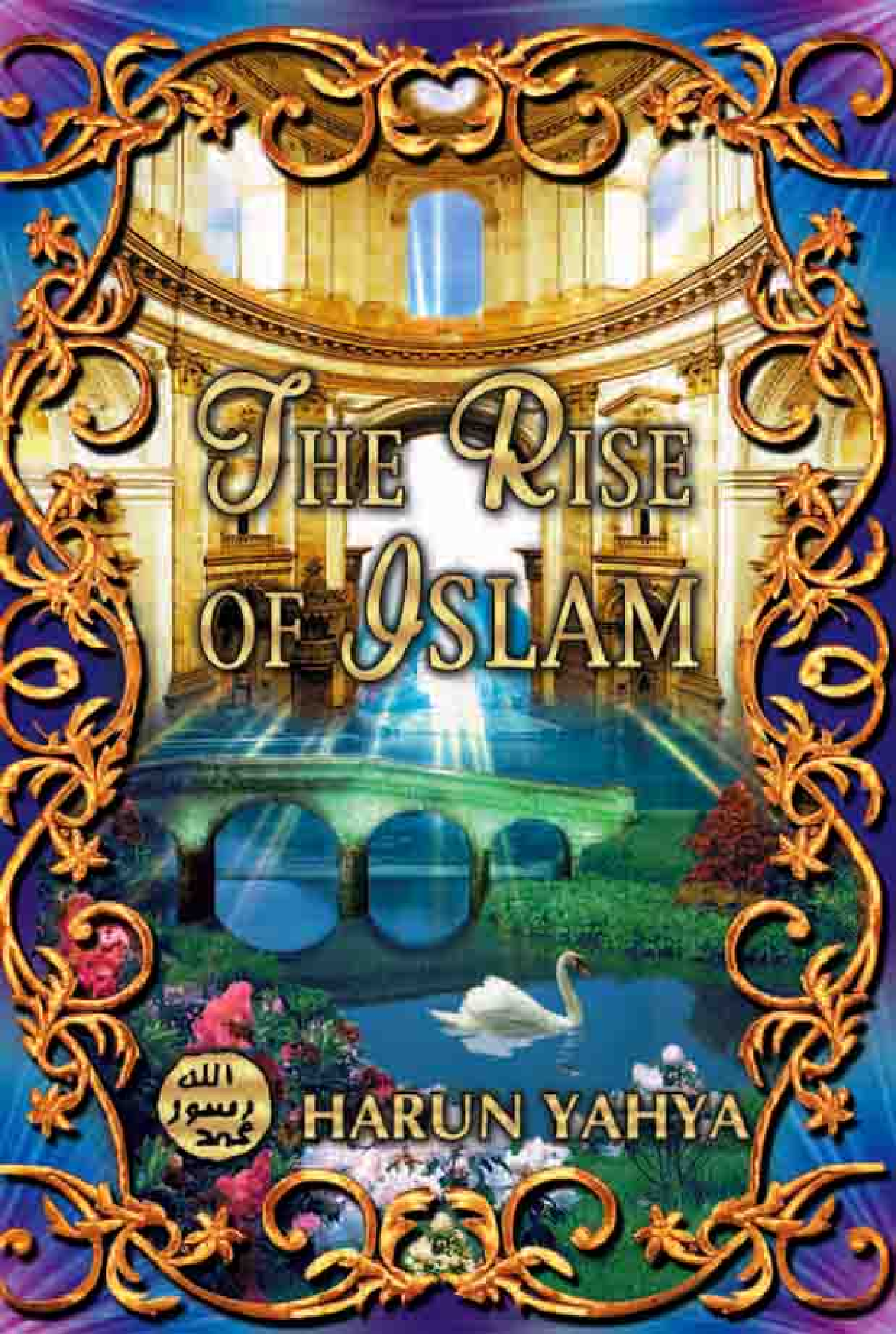

THE RISE
OF ISLAM
الله
رسول
محمد
HARUN YAHYA

If we put all the news we hear from the media about people's turning to Islam together we can grasp the extraordinary course of events. This book presents and evaluates these developments collectively so that readers may appreciate their importance. On the one hand, this book will attempt to make believers more enthusiastic and resolved and, on the other hand, show the importance of telling everyone about Islamic morality. All of these developments have been revealed in the Qur'an: "When God's help and victory have arrived, and you have seen people entering God's religion in droves, then glorify your Lord's praise and ask His forgiveness" (Qur'an, 110: 2-3) and it is important to know that what this verse says will come true very soon. It is even happening now. God will indeed fulfill this promise. Therefore, believers must do whatever they can to take part in these developments.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



The author, who writes under the pen-name Harun Yahya, was born in Ankara in 1956. He studied arts at Istanbul's Mimar Sinan University, and philosophy at Istanbul University. Since the 1980s, the author has published many books on political, faith-related and scientific issues. His main focus has been the refutation of Darwinism and materialism, two modern myths presented under a scientific guise. Harun Yahya's books appeal to all kinds of readers, Muslims and non-Muslims alike, regardless of their age, race, or nationality, for they focus on one objective: to broaden the readers' perspective by encouraging them to think about a number of critical issues, such as the existence of God and His unity, and to display the decrepit foundations and perverted works of godless systems.

In the Name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful



TO THE READER

A special chapter is assigned to the collapse of the theory of evolution because this theory constitutes the basis of all anti-spiritual philosophies. Since Darwinism rejects the fact of creation—and therefore, God's Existence—over the last 140 years it has caused many people to abandon their faith or fall into doubt. It is therefore an imperative service, a very important duty to show everyone that this theory is a deception. Since some readers may find the chance to read only one of our book, we think it appropriate to devote a chapter to summarize this subject.

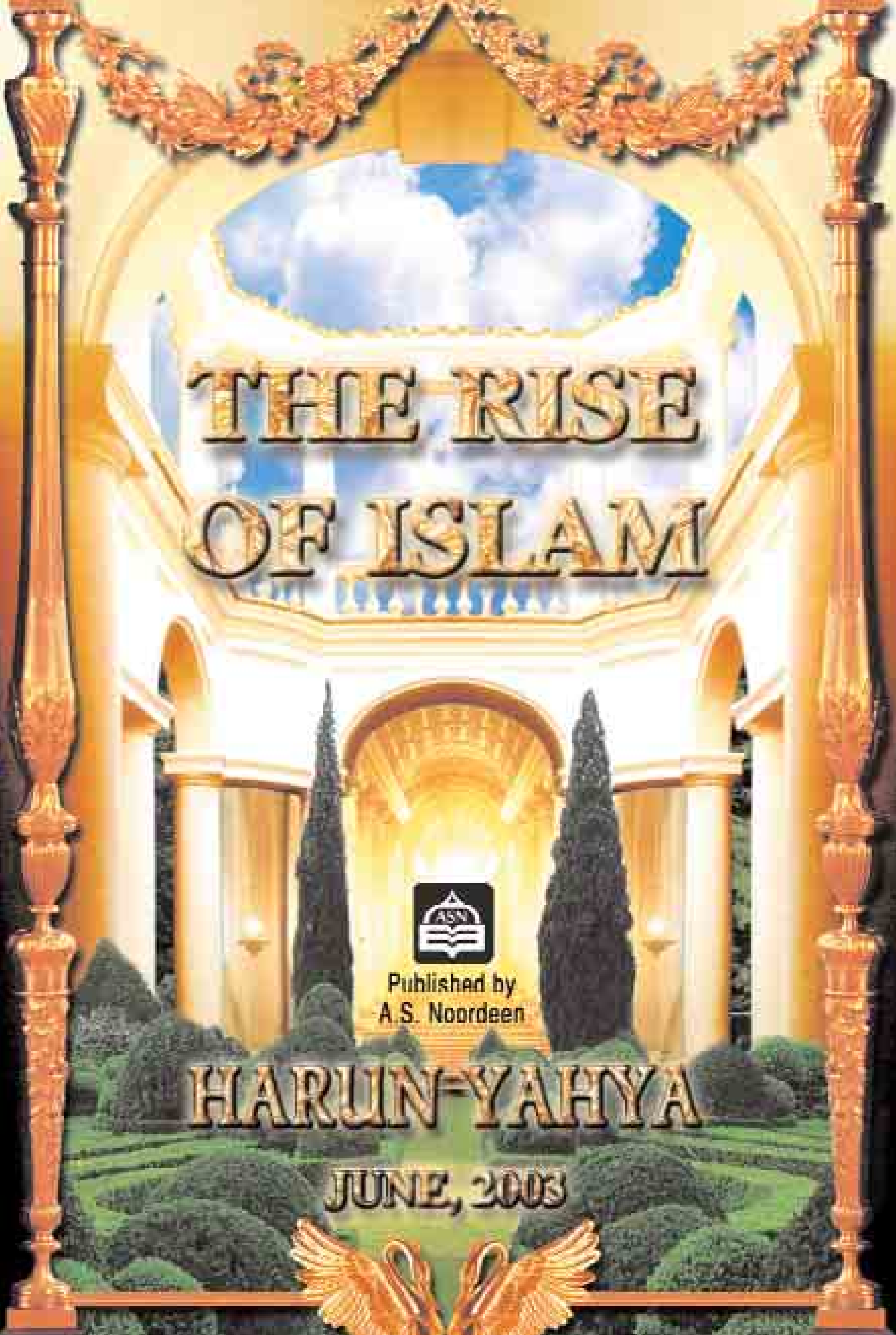
All the author's books explain faith-related issues in light of Qur'anic verses, and invite readers to learn God's words and to live by them. All the subjects concerning God's verses are explained so as to leave no doubt or room for questions in the reader's mind. The books' sincere, plain, and fluent style ensure that everyone of every age and from every social group can easily understand them. Thanks to their effective, lucid narrative, they can be read at a one sitting. Even those who rigorously reject spirituality are influenced by the facts these books document and cannot refute the truthfulness of their contents.

This and all the other books by the author can be read individually, or discussed in a group. Readers eager to profit from the books will find discussion very useful, letting them relate their reflections and experiences to one another.

In addition, it will be a great service to Islam to contribute to the publication and reading of these books, written solely for the pleasure of God. The author's books are all extremely convincing. For this reason, to communicate true religion to others, one of the most effective methods is encouraging them to read these books.

We hope the reader will look through the reviews of his other books at the back of this book. His rich source material on faith-related issues is very useful, and a pleasure to read.

In these books, unlike some other books, you will not find the author's personal views, explanations based on dubious sources, styles that are unobservant of the respect and reverence due to sacred subjects, nor hopeless, pessimistic arguments that create doubts in the mind and deviations in the heart.


THE RISE
OF ISLAM
Published by
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Now writing under the pen-name of HARUN YAHYA, he was born in Ankara in 1956. Having completed his primary and secondary education in Ankara, he studied arts at Istanbul's Mimar Sinan University and philosophy at Istanbul University. Since the 1980s, he has published many books on political, scientific, and faith-related issues. Harun Yahya is well-known as the author of important works disclosing the imposture of evolutionists, their invalid claims, and the dark liaisons between Darwinism and such bloody ideologies as fascism and communism.

His pen-name is a composite of the names *Harun* (Aaron) and *Yahya* (John), in memory of the two esteemed Prophets who fought against their people's lack of faith. The Prophet's seal on the his books' covers is symbolic and is linked to the their contents. It represents the Qur'an (the final scripture) and the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), last of the prophets. Under the guidance of the Qur'an and the Sunnah (teachings of the Prophet), the author makes it his purpose to disprove each fundamental tenet of godless ideologies and to have the "last word," so as to completely silence the objections raised against religion. He uses the seal of the final Prophet, who attained ultimate wisdom and moral perfection, as a sign of his intention to offer the last word.

All of Harun Yahya's works share one single goal: to convey the Qur' an's message, encourage readers to consider basic faith-related issues such as God's Existence and Unity and the hereafter; and to expose godless systems' feeble foundations and perverted ideologies.

Harun Yahya enjoys a wide readership in many countries, from India to America, England to Indonesia, Poland to Bosnia, and Spain to Brazil. Some of his books are available in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Urdu, Arabic, Albanian, Russian, Serbo-Croat (Bosnian), Polish, Malay, Uygur Turkish, and Indonesian.

Greatly appreciated all around the world, these works have been instrumental in many people recovering faith in God and gaining deeper insights into their faith. His books' wisdom and sincerity, together with a distinct style that's

easy to understand, directly affect anyone who reads them. Those who seriously consider these books, can no longer advocate atheism or any other perverted ideology or materialistic philosophy, since these books are characterized by rapid effectiveness, definite results, and irrefutability. Even if they continue to do so, it will be only a sentimental insistence, since these books refute such ideologies from their very foundations. All contemporary movements of denial are now ideologically defeated, thanks to the books written by Harun Yahya.

This is no doubt a result of the Qur'an's wisdom and lucidity. The author modestly intends to serve as a means in humanity's search for God's right path. No material gain is sought in the publication of these works.

Those who encourage others to read these books, to open their minds and hearts and guide them to become more devoted servants of God, render an invaluable service.

Meanwhile, it would only be a waste of time and energy to propagate other books that create confusion in people's minds, lead them into ideological chaos, and that clearly have no strong and precise effects in removing the doubts in people's hearts, as also verified from previous experience. It is impossible for books devised to emphasize the author's literary power rather than the noble goal of saving people from loss of faith, to have such a great effect. Those who doubt this can readily see that the sole aim of Harun Yahya's books is to overcome disbelief and to disseminate the Qur'an's moral values. The success and impact of this service are manifested in the readers' conviction.

One point should be kept in mind: The main reason for the continuing cruelty, conflict, and other ordeals endured by the vast majority of people is the ideological prevalence of disbelief. This can be ended only with the ideological defeat of disbelief and by conveying the wonders of creation and Qur'anic morality so that people can live by it. Considering the state of the world today, leading into a downward spiral of violence, corruption and conflict, clearly this service must be provided speedily and effectively, or it may be too late.

In this effort, the books of Harun Yahya assume a leading role. By the will of God, these books will be a means through which people in the twentyfirst century will attain the peace, justice, and happiness promised in the Qur'an.

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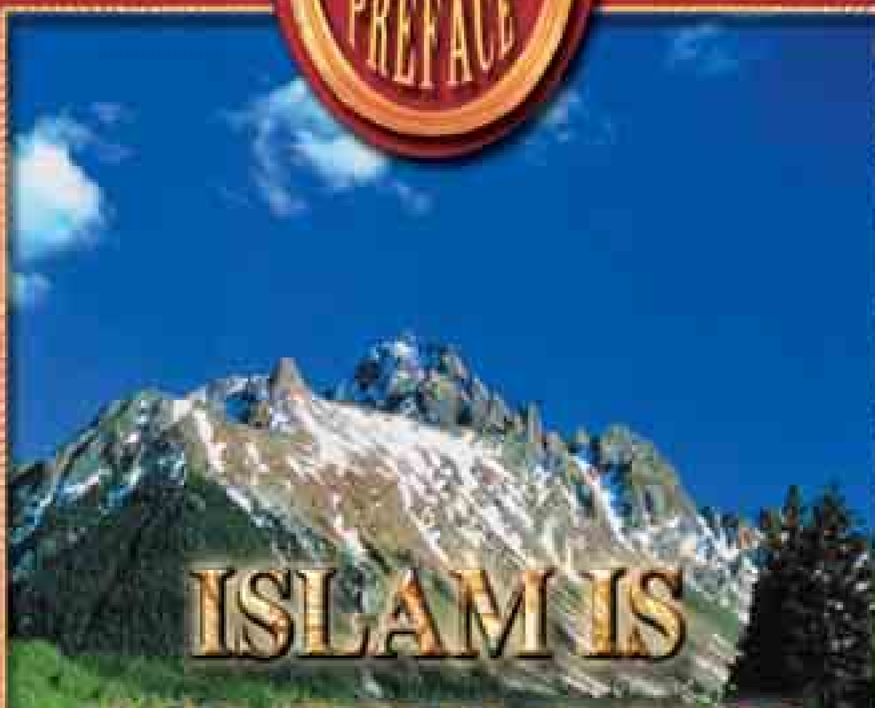
All translations from the Qur'an are from The Noble Qur'an: a New Rendering of its Meaning in English by Hajj Abdalhaqq and Aisha Bewley. Published by Bookwork, Norwich, UK. 1420 CE/1999 AH.

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CONTENTS

PREFACE

ISLAM IS ON THE RISE



During the last 20 years, the number of Muslims in the world has been increasing steadily. Statistics for the year 1973 indicate that the world population of Muslims was 500 million; now, it has reached 1.5 billion. Today, every fourth person is a Muslim.[1] It is probable that the Muslim population will continue to increase and that Islam will become the world's largest religion.

The reason for this steady rise is not only the increasing population in Muslim countries, but also the growing numbers of people who are turning to Islam, a phenomenon that has gained momentum, especially after the attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 (hereinafter referred to as 9/11). This attack, deplored by everyone, especially Muslims, has suddenly turned people's attention (especially Americans) to Islam. People in the West are talking a lot about what kind of a religion Islam is, what the Qur'an says, what obligations come with being a Muslim, and how Muslims are required to conduct their affairs. This interest has naturally brought about a rise in the number of people worldwide turning to Islam. So, the commonly heard prediction after 9/11 that "this attack will change the course of world his-

tory" has, in a sense, started to come true. The process of returning to religious and spiritual values, which the world has been experiencing for a long time, has become a turning to Islam.

Sometimes, when such developments are reported by the media, we see how extraordinary these events really are. Although sometimes presented as ordinary occurrences, in reality they are signs that Islamic morality has begun to spread throughout the world very quickly.

We must realize that these signs are either ignored in favor of other events, or cannot properly be appreciated by many people. However, it is of great importance that:

- Prominent statesmen quote the Qur'an in their speeches and take every occasion to express their reverence for it.
- They have begun to visit mosques and ask for detailed information about Islam.
- For the first time in history, the Pope has invited Christians and Muslims to fast together for one day.
- Christian clergy quote the Qur'an in their sermons.
- For weeks, the Qur'an has been the best selling book in Western countries
- There have been internationally televised special news programs, reports, and discussion programs introducing Islam.
- World-renowned newspapers have published articles about Islam and Muslims.
- The most popular books in libraries are those about Islam and Islamic history.

This book presents and evaluates these developments so that readers may appreciate their importance. On the one hand, this book



This map, published in *Der Spiegel*, shows where the Muslim population is dense. The dark green areas indicate places where the Muslim population is more than 90%.

will attempt to make believers more determined and resolved and, on the other hand, show the importance of telling everyone about Islamic morality. All of these developments have been revealed in the Qur'an: **"When God's help and victory have arrived, and you have seen people entering God's religion in droves, then glorify your Lord's praise and ask His forgiveness"** (Qur'an, 110: 2-3) and it is important to know that what this verse says will come true very soon. It is even happening now. God will indeed fulfill this promise. Therefore, believers must do whatever they can to take part in these developments.

The world streams to Islam



Dünya İslâma koşuyor

Dünyaca ünlü Alman Der Spiegel dergisi, "Muhammed kimdi? - İslâmiyetin sırrı" başlığıyla İslâm dinini kapak yaptı. Konuya 20 sayfasını ayıran dergi, dünyada hiçbir dinin İslâmiyet kadar hızlı yayılmadığına dikkati çekti.

30.06.2001, Yeni Asya

For the last 10 years, the number of Muslims has been increasing throughout the world, and Islam has been growing. Today every fourth person is a Muslim. This number is expected to grow even more in the near future.

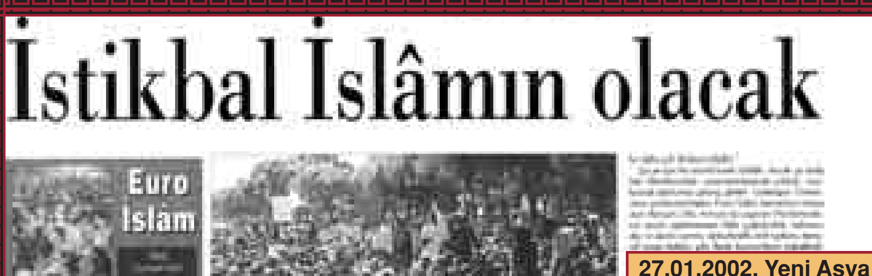
The interest in religion grows



Dine olan ilgi artıyor

Din, hayata anlam kazandırıyor, postmodern dünyada dine olan ilgi gittikçe artıyor. Buna karşılık politikaya, kurumlara, enstitülere ve kiliselere olan ilgi azalıyor.

14.05.2001, Akit



İstikbal İslâmın olacak

27.01.2002, Yeni Asya

The future belongs to Islam

Islam is spreading quickly



İslâmiyet hızla yayılıyor

03.06.2001, Türkiye

(below) A CNN program entitled "Fast Growing Islam Winning Converts in the Western World" pointed to the increasing number of Christians converting to Islam. An ABC program reported that the number of Muslims has long since passed one billion, and gave information on the basic tenets of Islam.



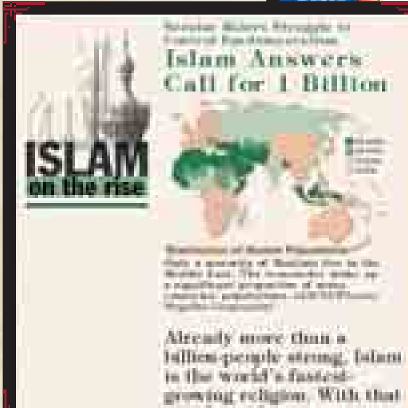
WORLD NEWS

STORY PAGE

Fast-growing Islam winning converts in Western world

From Correspondent Gayle Young

CAIRO (CNN) -- In the port city of Suez -- and across the Islamic world -- they are celebrating the Hajj, the pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca

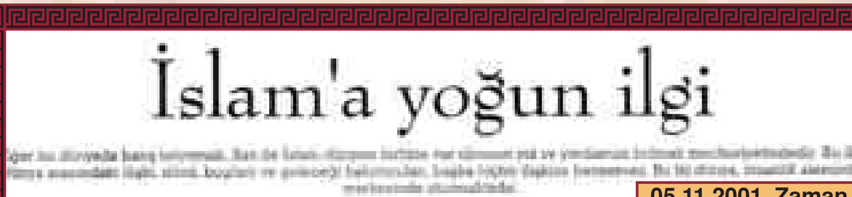


ISLAM on the rise

Islam Answers Call for 1 Billion

Already more than a billion-people strong, Islam is the world's fastest-growing religion. With that

The article below refers to the growth of interest in Islam particularly after 9/11.



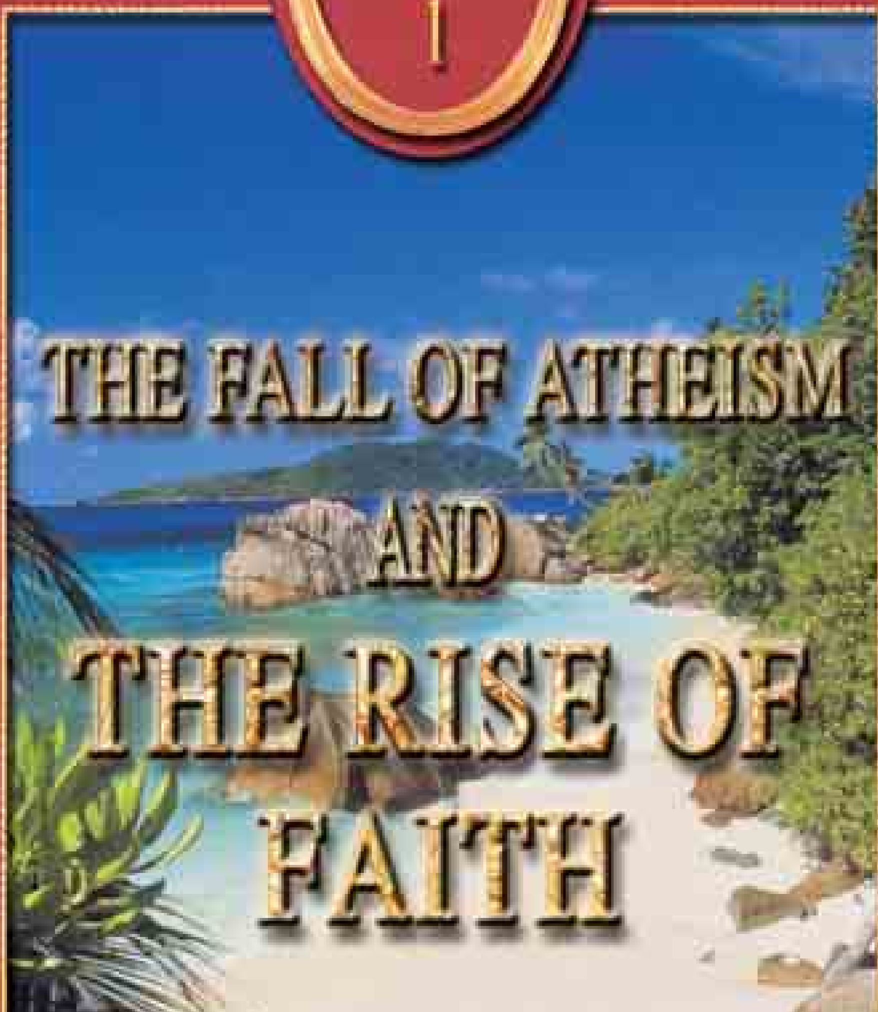
İslam'a yoğun ilgi

05.11.2001, Zaman

Intense interest in Islam

CHAPTER 1

THE FALL OF ATHEISM AND THE RISE OF FAITH



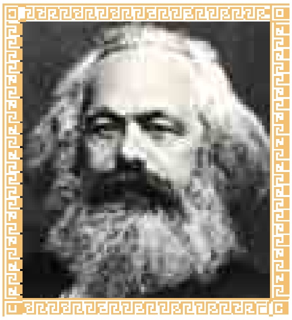
Before looking at Islam's world-wide growth, we must examine another critical development: the collapse of atheism and the rise of faith. Almost everyone who has studied human history, particularly its philosophical and social aspects, will agree that the nineteenth century was an important period, for it was during those years that the first steps were taken toward the future spiritual collapse. Its most important characteristic was the growth of atheism (i.e., rejecting God's Existence) as opposed to theistic beliefs and religion, which had been generally dominant in the world until then.

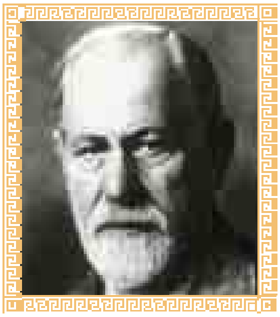
Although atheism has existed from ancient times, the rise of this idea actually began in eighteenth-century Europe, with the spread and political effect of the philosophy of some anti-religious thinkers. Materialists such as Denis Diderot (1713-84) and Baron d'Holbach (1723-89) proposed that the universe was a conglomeration of matter that had existed forever and that only matter existed. In the nineteenth century, atheism spread even further afield. Such thinkers as Ludwig Feuerbach (1804-72), Karl Marx (1818-83), Friedrich Engels (1820-95), Friedrich Nietzsche (1884-1900), Emile Durkheim (1859-1917), and Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) applied atheist thinking to different fields of science and philosophy.

The greatest support for atheism came from Charles Darwin (1809-82), who rejected the idea of creation and proposed the theory of evolution, which gave a supposedly scientific answer to the question that had baffled atheists for centuries: How did human beings and living things come to be?

This theory convinced a great many people that there was a mechanism in nature that animated lifeless matter and produced millions of different living species from it.

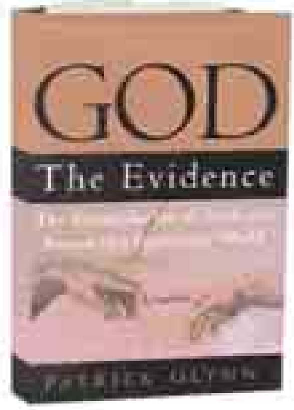
Toward the end of the nineteenth century, atheists formulated a worldview that "explained" everything: The universe had not been created, for it had no beginning and had existed forever. They claimed that it had no purpose, that its order and balance were the result of chance, and that Darwin's theory of evolution explained how human beings and other living things came into being. They believed that Marx and Durkheim had explained history and sociology, and that Freud had explained psychology on the basis of atheist assumptions. However, twentieth-century scientific, political, and social developments disproved these views, for ongoing discoveries in astronomy, biology, psychology, and social sciences nullified the bases of atheist suppositions.





Karl Marx (1818-83), Emile Durkheim (1858-1917), and Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) applied atheist thought to different fields of science and philosophy and caused this view to be disseminated.

Scientific, social, and political developments in the twentieth century caused atheism to collapse. Patrick Glynn deals with this process in his book *God: The Evidence*.



In his book *God: The Evidence, The Reconciliation of Faith and Reason in a Postsecular World*, American scholar Patrick Glynn of the George Washington University writes:

> The past two decades of research have overturned nearly all the important assumptions and predictions of an earlier generation of modern secular and atheist thinkers relating to the issue of God. Modern thinkers assumed that science would reveal the universe to be ever more random and mechanical; instead it has discovered unexpected new layers of intricate order that bespeak an almost unimaginably vast master design. Modern psychologists predicted that religion would be exposed as a neurosis and outgrown; instead, religious commitment has been shown empirically to be a vital component of basic mental health…
>
> Few people seem to realize this, but by now it should be clear: Over the course of a century in the great debate between science and faith, the tables have completely turned. In the wake of Darwin, atheists and agnostics like [Thomas Henry] Huxley [1825-95] and [Bertrand] Russell [1872-1970] could point to what appeared to be a solid body of testable theory purportedly showing life to be accidental and the universe radically contingent. Many scientists and intellectuals continue to cleave to this worldview. But they are increasingly pressed to almost absurd lengths to defend it. Today the concrete data point strongly in the direction of the God hypothesis.[2]

Science, which has been presented as the pillar of atheist/materi-

alist philosophy, turns out to be just the opposite. As another writer puts it: "The strict materialism that excludes all purpose, choice, and spirituality from the world simply cannot account for the data pouring in from labs and observatories."[3]

In short, atheism suffered a sudden collapse in the last quarter of the twentieth century at the hands of the very scientific and sociological concepts from which its adherents had hoped to receive the most support. In this chapter, we will look at its collapse in the areas of cosmology, biology, psychology, medicine, and sociology; later sections will discuss how this has prepared the foundation for Islam's rise.

Cosmology: The Collapse of the Concept of An Eternal Universe and the Discovery of Creation

The first blow to atheism from twentieth-century science was in the field of cosmology. The idea that the universe had existed forever was discounted, for scientists discovered that it had a beginning. In other words, they proved scientifically that the universe had been created from nothing.

This idea of an eternal universe came to the Western world, along with materialist philosophy, from classical Greek civilization. It stated that only matter exists, and that the universe comes from eternity and goes to eternity. In the Middle Ages, when the Catholic church dominated Western thought, materialism was forgotten. However, in the modern period Western scientists and philosophers became consumed with curiosity about these classical Greek origins and revived an interest in materialism.

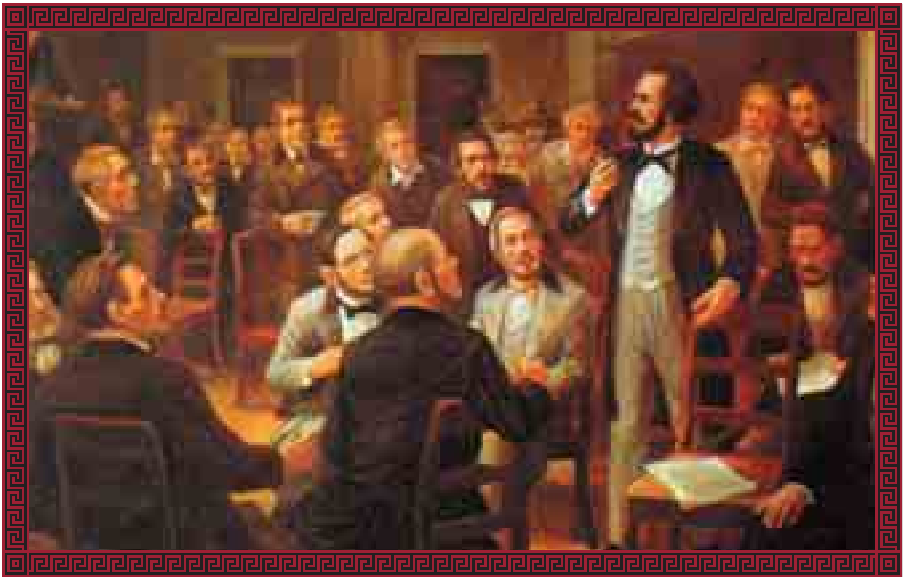
The first person to propose a materialist understanding of the universe was the renowned German philosopher Immanuel Kant (1724-1804), even though he was not a materialist in the philosophi-

cal sense of the word. Kant proposed that the universe was eternal and that every possibility could be realized only within this eternity. With the coming of the nineteenth century, it became widely accepted that the universe had no beginning and that there had been no moment of creation. Adopted passionately by such dialectical materialists as Marx and Engels, this idea found its way into the twentieth century.



Immanuel Kant (1724-1804; above) proposed that the universe was eternal, a claim that is strongly defended by materialists.

This idea has always been compatible with atheism, for accepting that the universe had a beginning would mean that God had created it. Thus the only way



In the picture above we see Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels (1820-95) at an 1847 meeting in London defending their atheist views.

to counter this idea was to claim that the universe was eternal, even though science did not support such a claim. Georges Politzer (1903-42), a dogged proponent of this claim, became widely known as a supporter of materialism and Marxism in the first half of the twentieth century through his book *Principes Fondamentaux de Philosophie* (The Fundamental Principles of Philosophy). Assuming the "eternal universe" model to be valid, he opposed the idea of creation:

> The universe was not a created object. If it were, then it would have to be created instantaneously by God and brought into existence from nothing. To admit creation, one has to admit, in the first place, the existence of a moment when the universe did not exist, and that something came out of nothingness. This is something to which science cannot accede.[4]

By supporting the idea of an eternal universe, Politzer thought that science was on his side. However, very soon thereafter, the fact that he had alluded to by saying "if it is so, we must accept the existence of a creator," that is, that the universe had a beginning, was proven. This proof came as a result of the "Big Bang" theory, perhaps the most important concept of twentieth-century astronomy.

The Big Bang theory was formulated after a series of discoveries. In 1929, the American astronomer Edwin Hubble (1889-1953) noticed that the galaxies were continually moving away from each other and that the universe was expanding. If the flow of time in an expanding universe were reversed, the whole universe must have come from a single point. While assessing the validity of Hubble's discovery, astronomers were faced with the fact that this single point was a "metaphysical" state of reality in which there was an infinite gravitational attraction with no mass. Matter and time came into being through the explosion of this mass-less point. In other words, the universe was created from nothing.

On the one hand, some die-hard materialist astronomers have tried to resist the Big Bang theory and maintain the idea of an eternal universe. Arthur Eddington (1882-1944), a renowned materialist physicist, summed up their view quite well when he said: "Philosophically, the notion of an abrupt beginning to the present order of Nature is repugnant to me."[5] Despite this repugnance, however, the Big Bang theory continues to be corroborated by concrete scientific discoveries. In their observations made in the 1960s, Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson detected radioactive remains of the explosion (cosmic background radiation). These observations were verified in the 1990s by the COBE (Cosmic Background Explorer) satellite.

Confronted with all of these facts, atheists have been squeezed

The materialists' claim that the "universe is eternal" was disproved by Edwin Hubble (1889-1953) discovery that the universe began from one point as the result of a great explosion.



into a corner. Anthony Flew, an atheist professor of philosophy at the University of Reading and author of *Atheistic Humanism*, makes this interesting confession:

> Notoriously, confession is good for the soul. I will therefore begin by confessing that the Stratonician atheist has to be embarrassed by the contemporary cosmological consensus. For it seems that the cosmologists are providing a scientific proof of what St. Thomas contended could not be proved philosophically; namely, that the universe had a beginning. So long as the universe can be comfortably thought of as being not only without end but also without beginning, it remains easy to urge that its brute existence, and whatever are found to be its most fundamental features, should be accepted as the explanatory ultimates. Although I believe that it remains still correct, it certainly is neither easy nor comfortable to maintain this position in the face of the Big Bang story.[6]

An example of the atheists' reaction to the Big Bang theory is seen in a 1989 article by John Maddox, editor of *Nature*, one of the best-known materialist-scientific journals. In his article, entitled "Down with the Big Bang," Maddox wrote that the Big Bang is "philosophically unacceptable," because "creationists and those of similar persuasions … have ample justification in the doctrine of the Big Bang." He also predicted that it "is unlikely to survive the decade ahead."[7]

However, despite Maddox' hopes, the Big Bang theory continues to gain credence, and new discoveries continue to prove that the universe was created.

Some materialists have a relatively logical view of this issue. For example, the English materialist physicist H. P. Lipton "unwillingly" accepts the scientific fact of creation. He writes:

> I think … that we must … admit that the only acceptable explanation is creation. I know that this is anathema to physicists, as indeed it is to me, but we must not reject a theory that we do not like if the experimental evidence supports it.[8]

Thus, modern astronomy proves and states that time and matter were brought into being by an eternally powerful Creator, Who is independent of both of them. The eternal power that created the universe in which we live is God, the possessor of infinite might, knowledge, and wisdom.

Physics and Astronomy: The Collapse of the Idea of A Random Universe and the Discovery of the Anthropic Principle

A second atheist dogma rendered invalid by twentieth-century discoveries in astronomy is the idea of a random universe. The view that all matter in the universe, the heavenly bodies, and the laws that determine the relationships among them is no more than the purposeless result of chance has been undermined dramatically.

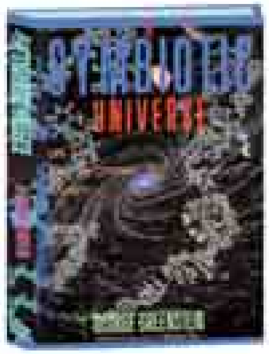
For the first time since the 1970s, scientists have begun to recognize that the universe's physical balance is adjusted delicately in favor of human life. Advances in research have enabled scientists to discover that the universe's physical, chemical, and biological laws, as well as such basic forces as gravity and electro-magnetism and even the very structures of atoms and elements, are all ordered exactly as they have to be for human life. Western scientists have called this extraordinary design the "anthropic principle": Every aspect of the universe is designed with a view to human life.

We may summarize its basic characteristics as follows:

❖ The speed of the universe's first expansion (the force of the Big Bang explosion) was exactly the velocity that it had to be. According to scientists' calculations, if the expansion rate had differed from its actual value by more than one part in a billion billion, the universe either would have recollapsed before reaching its present size or splattered in every direction in a manner that it could never be reunited. In other words, even at the first moment of its existence there was a fine calculation of the accuracy of a billion billionth.

❖ The universe's four physical forces (i.e., gravitational force, weak nuclear force, strong nuclear force, and electromagnetic force) are all at the necessary levels for an ordered universe to emerge and for life to exist. Even the tiniest variations in these forces (e.g., one in 10^{39} or one in 10^{28}; that is—crudely calculated—one in a billion billion billion billion), the universe either would be composed only of radiation or of hydrogen.

❖ Many other delicate adjustments make Earth ideal for human life: the size of the Sun, its distance from Earth, water's unique physical and chemical properties, the wavelength of the sun's rays, the way that Earth's atmosphere contains the gases necessary for respiration, and Earth's magnetic field being ideally suited to human life. (For more information on this topic, see Harun Yahya's *The Creation of the Universe*, Al-Attique Publishers: 2001)


In his book, *The Symbiotic Universe*, George Greenstein gives examples of the flawless design in the universe.

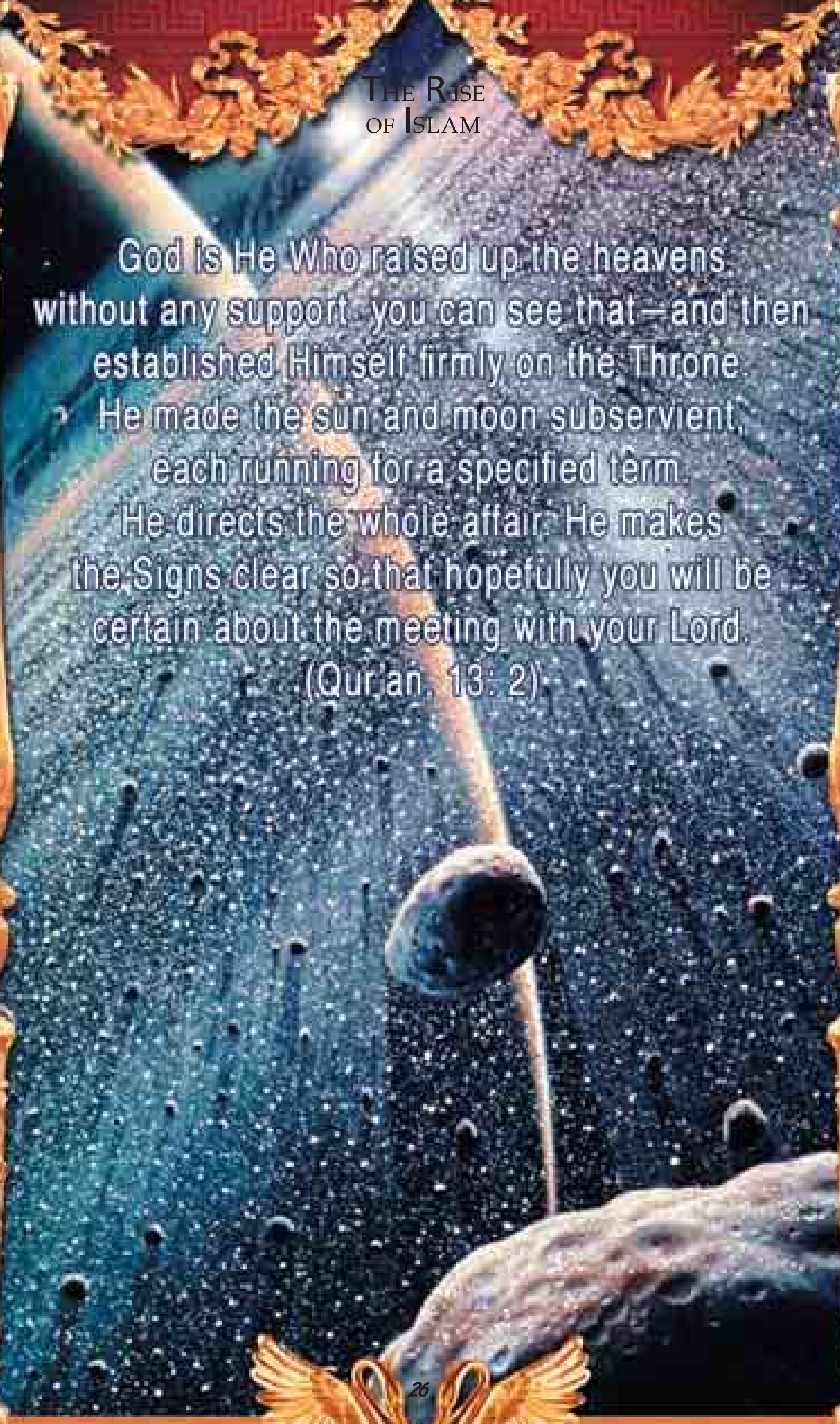
This delicate balance is among the most striking discoveries of modern astrophysics. Paul Davies, the well-known astronomer, writes in the last paragraph of his *The Cosmic Blueprint*: "The impression of Design is overwhelming."[9]

In an article in the journal *Nature*, the astrophysicist W. Press writes that **"there is a grand design in the Universe that favors the development of intelligent life."**[10]

Interestingly, the majority of the scientists who have made these discoveries were materialists who came to this conclusion unwillingly. They did not undertake their scientific investigations hoping to find a proof for God's Existence. But most, if not all, of them, despite their unwillingness, arrived at this conclusion as the only explanation for the universe's extraordinary design.

In his *The Symbiotic Universe*, the American astronomer George Greenstein acknowledges this fact:

> How could this possibly have come to pass [that the laws of physics conform themselves to life]? … As we survey all the evidence, the thought insistently arises that some supernatural agency—or, rather Agency—must be involved. Is it possible that suddenly, without intending to, we have stumbled upon scientific proof of the existence

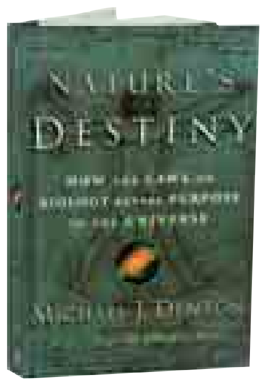


God is He Who raised up the heavens without any support – you can see that – and then established Himself firmly on the Throne. He made the sun and moon subservient, each running for a specified term. He directs the whole affair. He makes the Signs clear so that hopefully you will be certain about the meeting with your Lord.
(Qur'an, 13: 2)

of a Supreme Being? Was it God who stepped in and so providentially crafted the cosmos for our benefit?[11]



By beginning his question with "Is it possible," Greenstein, an atheist, tries to ignore the plain fact confronting him. But many scientists who have approached the question without prejudice acknowledge that the universe has been created especially for human life.



The renowned molecular biologist Michael Denton and his book *Nature's Destiny: How the Laws of Biology Reveal Purpose in the Universe.*

Materialism is now being viewed as an erroneous belief outside the realm of science. The American geneticist Robert Griffiths acknowledges this when he says: "If we need an atheist for a debate, I go to the philosophy department. The physics department isn't much use."[12]

In Nature's Destiny: How the Laws of Biology Reveal Purpose in the Universe, which examines how physical, chemical, and biological laws are amazingly calculated in an ''ideal'' way with a view to human life's requirements, well-known molecular biologist Michael Denton writes:

> The new picture that has emerged in twentieth-century astronomy presents a dramatic challenge to the presumption which has been prevalent within scientific circles during most of the past four centuries: that life is a peripheral and purely contingent phenomenon in the cosmic scheme.[13]

In short, the idea of a random universe, perhaps atheism's most

basic pillar, has been proved invalid. Scientists now openly speak of materialism's collapse.[14] God reveals the falsity of this idea in the Qur'an: **"We did not create heaven and Earth and everything between them to no purpose. That is the opinion of those who disbelieve..."** (Qur'an, 38: 27), and science confirmed that truth in the 1970s.

Quantum Physics and the Discovery of Divine Wisdom

One area of science that shatters the materialist myth and gives positive evidence for theism is quantum physics.

Quantum physics deals with matter's tiniest particles, also called the "sub-atomic realm." In school, everyone learns that matter is composed of atoms. Atoms are made up of a nucleus and several electrons spinning around it. One strange fact is that all of these particles take up only some 0.0001 percent of the atoms. In other words, an atom is something that is 99.9999 percent "empty."

Even more interestingly, further examination shows that the nuclei and electrons are made up of much smaller particles called "quarks," which are not even particles in the physical sense; rather, they are simply energy. This discovery broke the classical distinction between matter and energy. It now appears that only energy exists in the material universe, and that matter is just "frozen energy."

There is a still more intriguing fact: Quarks, those packets of energy, act in such a way that they may be described as "conscious." Physicist Freeman Dyson, when accepting the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion (2000), stated that:

> Atoms are weird stuff, behaving like active agents rather than inert substances. They make unpredictable choices between alternative

> possibilities according to the laws of quantum mechanics. It appears that mind, as manifested by the capacity to make choices, is to some extent inherent in every atom.[15]

In other words, there is information behind matter, information that precedes the material realm. Gerald Schroeder, an MIT-trained scientist who has worked in both physics and biology and authored *The Science of God*, makes a number of important comments on this subject. In his more recent book, *The Hidden Face of God: Science Reveals the Ultimate Truth*, Schroeder explains that quantum physics—along with other branches of science—is the tool for discovering a universal wisdom lying behind the material world. As he puts it:

> It took humanity millennia before an Einstein discovered that, as bizarre as it may seem, the basis of matter is energy, that matter is actually condensed energy. It may take a while longer for us to discover that there is some non-thing even more fundamental than energy that forms the basis of energy, which in turn forms the basis of matter.[16]

John Archibald Wheeler, professor of physics at Princeton University and recipient of the Einstein Award (2003), explained the same fact when he said that the "bit" (the binary digit) of information gives rise to the "it," the substance of matter.[17] According to Schroeder, this has a "profound meaning":

> The matter/energy relationships, the quantum wave functions, have profound meaning. Science may be approaching the realization that the entire universe is an expression of information, wisdom, an idea, just as atoms are tangible expressions of something as ethereal as energy.[18]

This wisdom is such an omniscient thing that it covers the whole universe:

> A single consciousness, a universal wisdom, pervades the universe.

> The discoveries of science, those that search the quantum nature of subatomic matter, have moved us to the brink of a startling realization: all existence is the expression of this wisdom. In the laboratories we experience it as information that first physically articulated as energy and then condensed into the form of matter. Every particle, every being, from atom to human, appears to represent a level of information, of wisdom.[19]

This means that the material universe is not a purposeless and chaotic heap of atoms, as the atheist/materialist dogma assumes, but instead is a manifestation of a wisdom that existed before the universe and that has absolute sovereignty over everything that exists. In Schroeder's words, it is "as if a metaphysical substrate was impressed upon the physical."[20]

This discovery shatters the whole materialist myth and reveals that the visible material universe is just a shadow of a transcendent Absolute Being. Thus, as Schroeder explains, quantum physics has become the point at which science and theology meet:

> The age-old theological view of the universe is that all existence is the manifestation of a transcendent wisdom, with a universal consciousness being its manifestation. If I substitute the word information for wisdom, theology begins to sound like quantum physics. We may be witnessing the scientific confluence of the physical with the spiritual.[21]

Quantum is really the point at which science and theology meet. The fact that the whole universe is pervaded by a wisdom was revealed in the Qur'an 14 centuries ago. One verse reads:

> **Your god is God alone, there is no god but Him. He encompasses all things in His knowledge. (Qur'an, 20:98)**

The Natural Sciences: The Collapse of Darwinism and the Victory of "Intelligent Design"

As stated earlier, one of the main supports for atheism's rise to its zenith in the nineteenth century was Darwin's theory of evolution. By asserting that the origin of human beings and all other living things lay in unconscious natural mechanisms, Darwinism gave atheists the scientific guise they had been seeking for centuries. That time's most passionate atheists adopted his theory, and such atheist thinkers as Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels made its elucidation the basis of their philosophy. The relationship between Darwinism and atheism born at that point in time has continued until our own time.

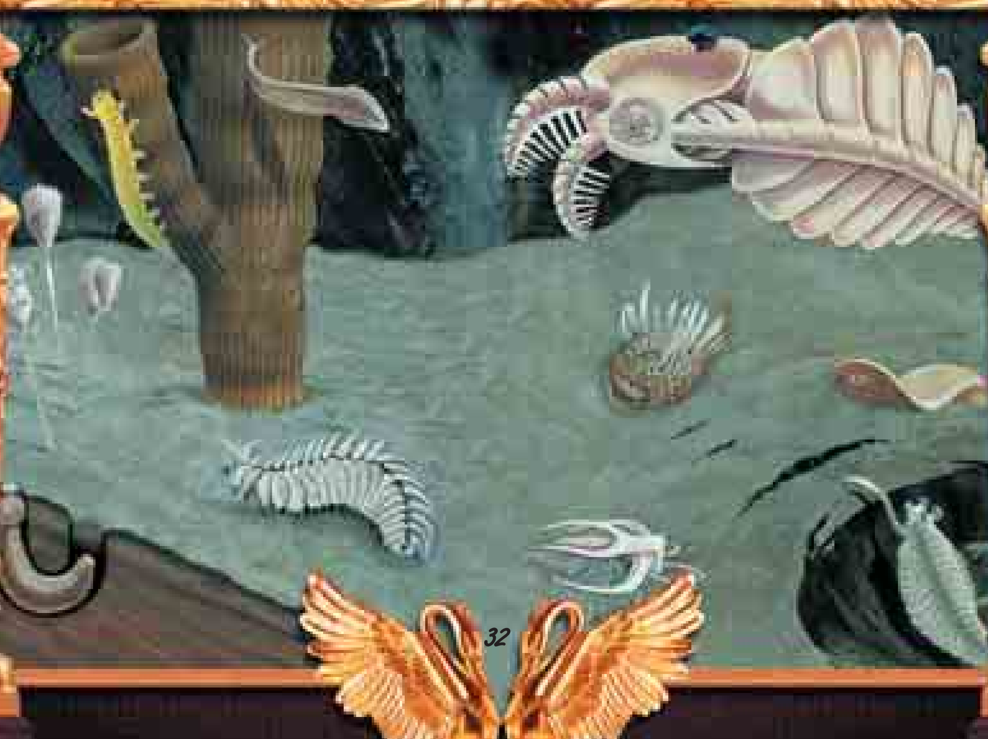
But, at the same time, this core belief of atheism is the very one that has received the greatest blow from twentieth-century science. Discoveries in paleontology, biochemistry, anatomy, genetics, and other scientific fields have shattered the theory of evolution (See Harun Yahya's *Darwinism Refuted*). We have dealt with this fact in far more detail elsewhere. However, in short, we can say the following:

❖ **Paleontology:** Darwin's theory rests on the assumptions that all species come from a single common ancestor and that they diverged from one another over a long period of time by means of small gradual changes. Supposedly, the required proofs will be discovered in the fossil record or the petrified remains of living things. But fossil research conducted during the twentieth century presents a totally different picture, for no fossil of a single undoubted intermediate species, one that would substantiate this theory of gradual evolution among species, has been found. Moreover, every taxon [an animal or plant group having natural relations] appears suddenly in the fossil record, and no trace has ever been found of any previous ancestors. The phenomenon

known as the Cambrian Explosion, which scientists classify as a period of time that occurred 540 to 490 million years ago, is especially interesting. In that early geological period, nearly all of the animal kingdom's phyla (major groups with significantly different body structures) appeared suddenly. The sudden emergence of many different categories of living things with totally different body structures and extremely complex organs and systems (e.g., mollusks, arthropods, echinoderms, and, as recently discovered, even vertebrates) rendered the theory of evolution invalid and proved creation, for as evolutionists also agree, a taxon's sudden emergence implies purposeful design, and this means creation.

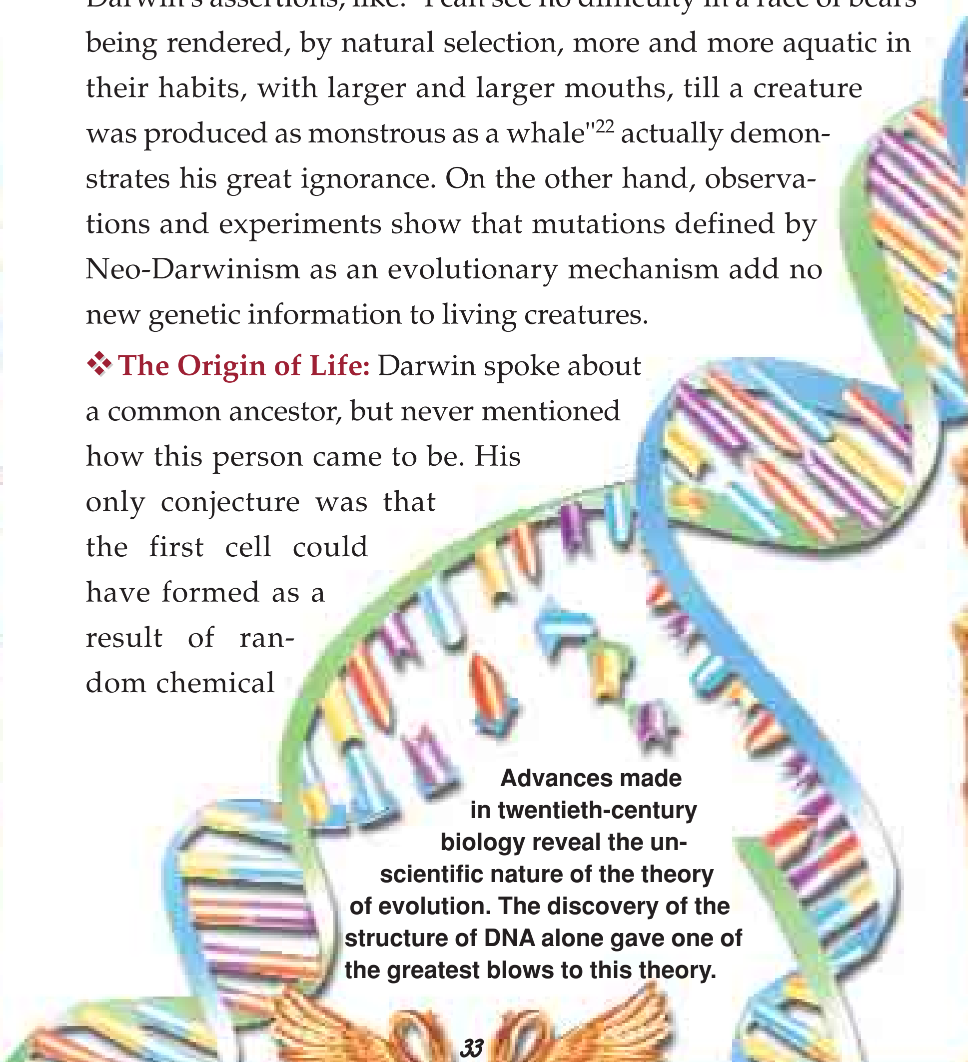
❖ **Biological Observations:** Darwin elaborated on his theory by relying upon examples of how animal breeders produced differ-

All of the fossil research conducted during the twentieth century proves that there is no gradual evolution between species. The fact that many different groups of living things appeared suddenly in the Cambrian Explosion is convincing proof that they were created.



ent dog or horse varieties. He extrapolated the limited changes he observed to the whole natural world, and proposed that every living thing could have come from a common ancestor. But Darwin made this claim in the nineteenth century, when the level of scientific sophistication was low. In the twentieth century, things changed greatly. Decades of observation and experimentation on various animal species have shown that variation in living things has never gone beyond a certain genetic boundary. Darwin's assertions, like: "I can see no difficulty in a race of bears being rendered, by natural selection, more and more aquatic in their habits, with larger and larger mouths, till a creature was produced as monstrous as a whale"[22] actually demonstrates his great ignorance. On the other hand, observations and experiments show that mutations defined by Neo-Darwinism as an evolutionary mechanism add no new genetic information to living creatures.

❖ **The Origin of Life:** Darwin spoke about a common ancestor, but never mentioned how this person came to be. His only conjecture was that the first cell could have formed as a result of random chemical



Advances made in twentieth-century biology reveal the unscientific nature of the theory of evolution. The discovery of the structure of DNA alone gave one of the greatest blows to this theory.

reactions "in some small warm little pond."[23] But those evolutionary biochemists who sought to close this hole in Darwinism were frustrated by the fact that all of their observations and experiments showed that no living cell could arise within inanimate matter by means of random chemical reactions. Even the English atheist astronomer Fred Hoyle expressed that such a scenario "is comparable with the chance that a tornado sweeping through a junk-yard might assemble a Boeing 747 from the materials therein."[24]

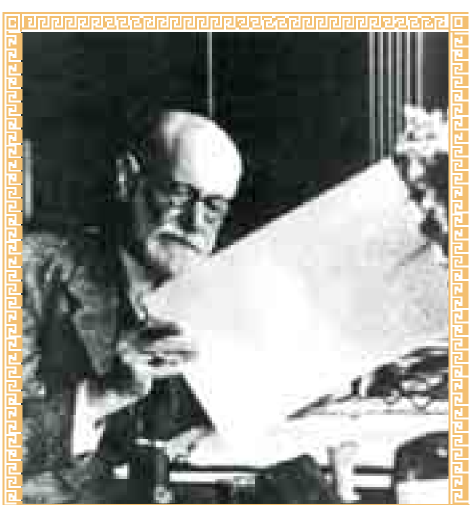
❖ **Intelligent Design:** Scientists who study cells and their molecules, along with the cells' remarkable organization within the body, and the bodily organs' delicate order and plan are faced with proof that evolutionists strongly wish to reject: The world of living things is permeated by designs too complex to be found in any technological equipment. Intricate examples of design, including our eyes that are far superior to any camera, the wings of birds that have inspired flight technology, the complexly integrated system of the cells of living things, and the remarkable information stored in DNA have vitiated the theory of evolution, which regards living things as the product of blind chance.

By the end of the twentieth century, all of these facts had squeezed Darwinism into a corner. Today, in the United States and other Western countries, the theory of intelligent design is gaining ever-increasing acceptance among scientists. Those who defend it say that Darwinism has been a great error in the history of science, and that it came to be so by imposing materialist philosophy on the scientific paradigm. Scientific discoveries show that there is a design in living things, which proves creation. In short, science proves once more that God created all living things.

Psychology: The Collapse of Freudianism and the Acceptance of Faith

The representative of nineteenth-century atheism in psychology was the Austrian psychiatrist Sigmund Freud (1856-1939). He proposed a psychological theory that rejected the soul's existence and tried to explain humanity's whole spiritual world in terms of sexual and similar hedonistic motivations. But Freud's greatest assault was against religion. In his *The Future of an Illusion*, originally published in 1927, Freud proposed that religious faith was a kind of mental illness (neurosis) that would disappear completely as humanity progressed. Due to the primitive scientific conditions of the time, his theory was proposed without either the requisite research and investigation or any scholarly literature or possibility of comparison. Therefore, its claims were extremely deficient.

After Freud, psychology developed on an atheist foundation. Moreover, the founders of other schools of psychology were passionate atheists. Two of these were B. F. Skinner (1904-90), founder of the behaviorist school, and Albert Ellis (1913-), founder of rational-emotive therapy. The world of psychology gradually



Sigmund Freud, an avowed atheist, regarded religious faith as a kind of mental illness. This unscientific claim was disproved by the developing science of psychology itself.

became the forum for atheism. A 1972 poll among the members of the American Psychological Association revealed that only 1.1 percent of psychologists in the country had any religious beliefs.[25]

But most psychologists who fell into this great deception were undone by their own psychological investigations. The basic suppositions of Freudianism were shown to have almost no scientific support. Moreover, religion was shown not to be a mental illness, as Freud and some other psychological theorists declared, but rather a basic element of mental health. Patrick Glynn summarizes these important developments:

> Yet the last quarter of the twentieth century has not been kind to the psychoanalytic vision. Most significant has been the exposure of Freud's views of religion as entirely fallacious. Ironically enough, scientific research in psychology over the past twenty-five years has demonstrated that, far from being a neurosis or source of neuroses as Freud and his disciples claimed, religious belief is one of the most consistent correlates of overall mental health and happiness. Study after study has shown a powerful relationship between religious belief and practice, on the one hand, and healthy behaviors with regard to such problems as suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, divorce, depression, even, perhaps surprisingly, levels of sexual satisfaction in marriage, on the other. In short, the empirical data run exactly contrary to the supposedly "scientific" consensus of the psychotherapeutic profession.[26]

Finally, as Glynn says, "modern psychology at the close of the twentieth century seems to be reacquainting itself with religion,"[27] and "a purely secular view of human mental life has been shown to fail not just at the theoretical, but also at the practical, level."[28]

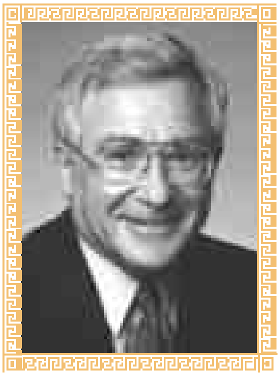
In other words, psychology also has routed atheism.

Medicine: The Discovery of How "Hearts Find Peace"

Another branch of science affected by the collapse of atheist suppositions was medicine.

According to results compiled by David B. Larson and his team at the National Institute for Healthcare Research, a comparison among Americans in relation to their observance of religious duties yielded very interesting results. The risk of arteriosclerotic heart disease for men who attended church frequently was just 60 percent of that for men who were infrequent church attendees; among women, suicide was twice as high among infrequent as among frequent church attenders; smokers who ranked religion as very important in their lives were over seven times less likely to have normal diastolic pressure readings than were those who did not.[29]

Secular psychologists generally explain such phenomena as having a psychological cause. In this sense, faith raises a person's morale and contributes to his or her well-being. There may be some truth in this explanation, but if we look more closely, we see something much more dramatic: Belief in God is far stronger than any other influence on one's morale. In comprehensive research on the relationship between religious belief and physical health, Dr. Herbert Benson of the Harvard Medical School came up with some interesting results. Although he has no religious faith, Benson concluded that faith in God and worship had a far more positive effect on human health than could be observed in anything else. Benson con-



Dr. Herbert Benson of the Harvard Faculty of Medicine

cludes that he has "found that faith quiets the mind like no other form of belief."[30]

Why is there such a special relation among faith, the human spirit, and the body? Benson, a secular researcher, stated that the human mind and body are "wired for God."[31]

This fact, which the medical world is slowly beginning to notice, is a secret revealed in the Qur'an: **"Only in the remembrance of God can the heart find peace."** (Qur'an, 13:28) The reason why those who believe in God, pray to Him and trust in Him are physically and mentally healthier than others is that they behave in harmony with their nature. Philosophical systems opposed to human nature always bring pain, sorrow, anxiety, and depression in their wake.

The basic source of religious people's peace is that they act in order to gain God's approval. In other words, this peace is the natural result of listening to the voice of one's conscience. People who live the morality of religion simply "to be more at peace" or "to be healthier" cannot live according to the morality of religion; those who act with this intention cannot find peace in its true sense. God well knows what people store in their hearts and what they reveal. Peace of mind comes only by being sincere and attempting to gain God's approval. God commands:

> **So set your face firmly toward the [true] religion, as a pure natural believer, God's natural pattern on which He made mankind. There is no changing God's creation. That is the true religion—but most people do not know it. (Qur'an, 30:30)**

In light of these discoveries, modern medicine is starting to become aware of this truth. As Patrick Glynn says, "contemporary medicine is clearly moving in the direction of acknowledging dimensions of healing beyond the purely material."[32]

Society: The Fall of Communism, Fascism, and the Hippie Dream

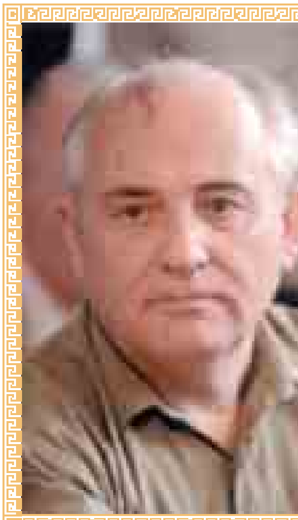
The collapse of atheism did not occur only in astrophysics, biology, psychology, and medicine; it also happened in politics and social morality.

The collapse of communism may be considered one of the most important examples of this. Communism may be considered the most important political result of nineteenth-century atheism. The founders of this ideology, Marx, Engels, Vladimir Lenin (1870-1924), Leon Trotsky (1879-1940), or Mao Zedong (1893-1976), all adopted atheism as a basic principle. A primary goal of all communist regimes was to produce atheistic societies and destroy religious belief. Stalin's Soviet Union, Mao's Communist China, Kampuchea (Cambodia), Albania, and some Eastern bloc countries applied immense pressure on Muslims and other religious people, sometimes to the point of committing mass murder.

Yet, amazingly, at the end of the 1980s, this bloody atheist system collapsed. When we examine the reasons for this dramatic fall, we see that what collapsed was actually atheism. Patrick Glynn writes:

> To be sure, secular historians would say that the greatest mistake of Communism was to attempt to defy the laws of economics. But other laws, too, came into play … Moreover, as historians penetrate the circumstances of the Communist collapse, it is becoming clearer that the Soviet elite was itself in the throes of an atheistic "crisis of faith." Having lived under an atheistic ideology—one that consisted of lies and that was based on a "Big Lie"— the Soviet system suffered a radical demoralization, in every sense of that term. People, including the ruling elite, lost all sense of morality and all sense of hope.[33]

An interesting indication of the Soviet system's great "crisis of faith" was President Mikhail Gorbachev's (1931-) attempted reforms. Ever since he became general secretary of the communist party (1985-91) and assumed the Soviet presidency in 1990, Gorbachev was interested in moral problems as well as economic reforms. For example, one of the first things he did was to initiate a campaign against alcoholism. In order to raise Soviet society's morale, for a long time he used Marxist-Leninist terminology. But seeing that this was of no use, he even began to mention God in some of his speeches, although he was an atheist. Naturally, these insincere words of faith were of no use, and the crisis of faith in Soviet society continued to worsen. Finally, the gigantic Soviet empire collapsed in 1991.



Mihail Gorbachev (1931-), former president of the Soviet Union.

The twentieth century documented not only the fall of communism, but also that of fascism, another fruit of nineteenth-century anti-religious philosophy. Fascism is the outcome of a philosophy that may be called a mixture of atheism and paganism, and is intensely hostile to theist religions. Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900), who may be called the



Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) is regarded as the father of fascism

father of fascism, extolled the morality of barbarous idolatrous societies, attacked Christianity and other monotheistic religions, and even called himself the "Anti-Christ." His disciple, Martin Heidegger (1889-1976), was an avid Nazi supporter, and the ideas of these two atheist thinkers gave impetus to the terrifying savagery of Nazi Germany. The Second World War, which caused the death of 55 million people, is another example of the calamity that such atheist ideologies as fascism and communism have brought upon humanity.



James Joll, *Europe Since 1870*.

At this point, we must recall Social Darwinism, another atheist ideology that helped cause both world wars. In his *Europe Since 1870*, Harvard history professor James Joll states that behind each of the two world wars lay the philosophical views of Social Darwinist European leaders who believed in the myth that war was a biological necessity and that nations developed through conflict.[34]

Another social consequence of atheism appeared in Western democracies. In the present day, there is a tendency to regard the West as the "Christian world." However, since the nineteenth century, a quickly growing atheist culture has held sway with Christian culture, and today there is a conflict between them in what we call Western civilization. And this atheist element was the true cause of Western imperialism, moral degeneration, despotism, and other negative manifestations.

In his *God: The Evidence*, American writer Patrick Glynn draws attention to this matter and, in order to compare the God-fearing and atheist elements in the West, takes the examples of the American and the French revolutions. The American revolution was realized by

people who believed in God. The American Declaration of Independence states that all men "are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights." Since the French revolution was the work of atheists, the French Declaration of Human Rights was different, with no reference to God and full of atheist and neo-pagan notions.

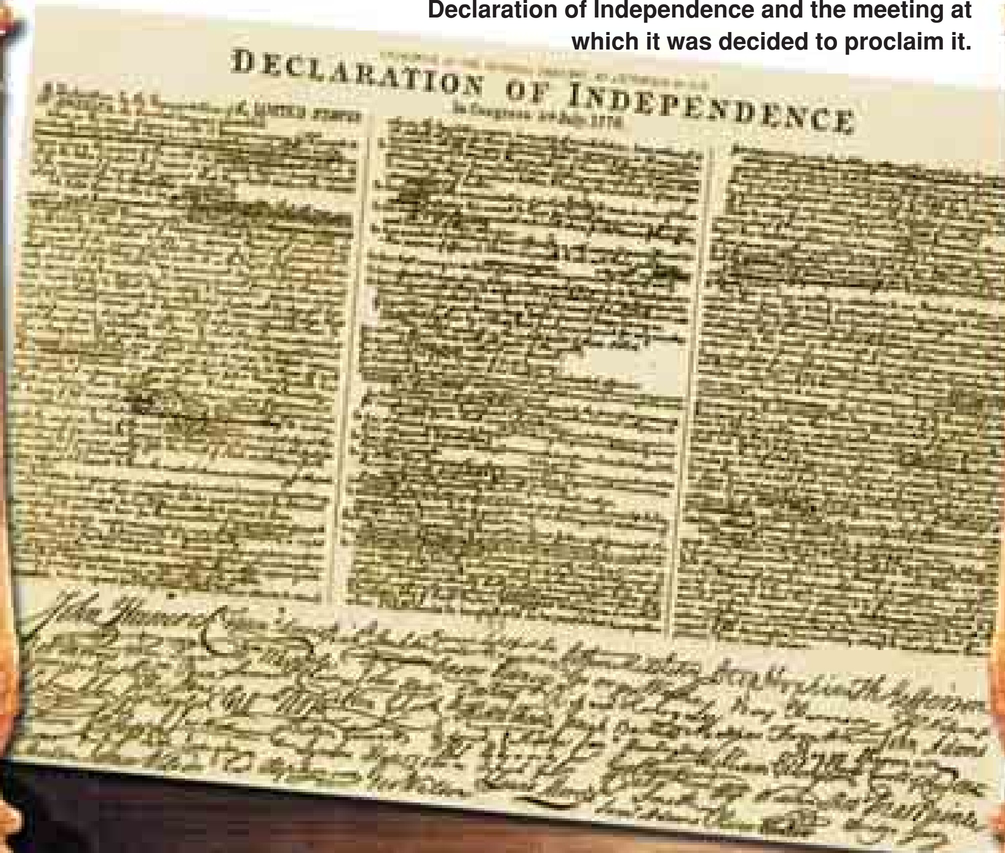
The actual results of the two revolutions were quite different: In the American model, a relatively more peaceful, tolerant environment was created, one that respected religion and religious belief; in France, the fierce hostility to religion drowned the country in blood and unleashed a savagery that had no equal in French history up until that time. As Glynn says, "there is an interesting historical correlation between atheism, on the one hand, and moral and political catastrophe, on the other hand."[35]

Glynn notes that attempts to turn America into an atheist country also have harmed society. The fact that the sexual revolution, for example, that spread during the 1960s and 1970s caused immense social damage in terms of traditional moral values is accepted even by secular historians.[36]

The hippie movement was a demonstration of this social damage. Hippies believed that they could find spiritual emancipation through secular humanist philosophy, eastern philosophies, and by such things as unlimited drugs and sex. These young people who poured into the streets with romantic songs—like John Lennon's *Imagine*, released in 1971 and in which he spoke of a world "with no countries, and no religion too"—were actually undergoing a mass deception.

In fact, a world without religion actually brought them to an unhappy end. The hippy leaders of the 1960s either killed themselves or died from drug-induced comas in the early 1970s. Many other young hippies shared a similar fate.

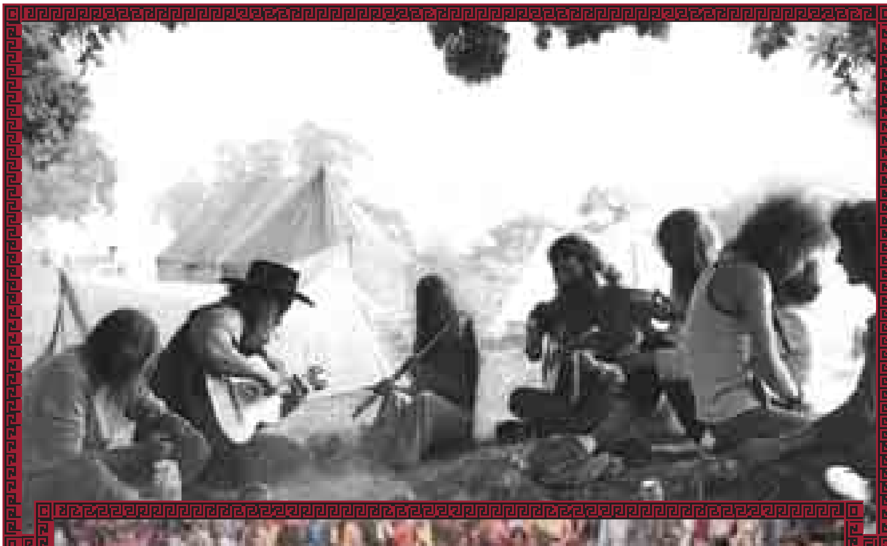
Below: The original copy of the American Declaration of Independence and the meeting at which it was decided to proclaim it.



DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



On of the most striking examples of the destruction wreaked on social life by atheist ideology is the spiritual collapse suffered by the so-called "generation of '68."





Members of the same generation who turned to violence found themselves on the receiving end of violence. The 1968 generation, which turned its back on God and religion and imagined they could

find salvation in such concepts as revolution or selfish Epicureanism, ruined both themselves and their own societies.

The Movement Toward Religious Morality

The facts given above clearly show that atheism is undergoing an inevitable collapse. In other words, humanity is—and will be—turning toward God, and not only in the scientific and political communities. From prominent statesmen to movie stars and pop artists, those who influence opinion in the West are far more religious than they used to be. Many people have seen the truth and come to believe in God after having lived for years as atheists. (Patrick Glynn, from whose book we have quoted, is one of these ex-atheists.)

Interestingly, the developments contributing to this result also began in the second half of the 1970s. The anthropic principle first appeared in the 1970s, and scientific criticism of Darwinism started to be loudly voiced at the same time. The turning point against Freud's atheist dogma was M. Scott Peck's *The Road Less Traveled*. For this reason, Glynn, in the 1997 edition of his book, writes that "over the past twenty years, a significant body of evidence has emerged, shattering the foundations of the long-dominant modern secular worldview."[37]

Surely, the fact that the atheist worldview has been shaken means that another worldview is rising, which is belief in God. Since the end of the 1970s (or, from the beginning of the fourteenth century according to the Muslim calendar), the world has seen a rise in religious values. Like other social processes, because this develops over a long period of time instead of all at once, a majority of people may not notice it. However, those who evaluate the development a little more carefully see that the world is at a major turning point in the realm of ideas.

Secular historians try to explain this process according to their own principles. However, given that they are in deep error with regard to God's Existence, they also are greatly mistaken about the course of history. In fact, as the following verse reveals, history moves as God has determined: **"You will not find any changing in the pattern of God. You will not find any alteration in the pattern of God."** (Qur'an, 35: 43) It follows, then, that history has a purpose and unfolds as God has commanded. And God's command is to perfect His light:

> **They desire to extinguish God's Light with their mouths. But God refuses to do other than perfect His Light, even though the unbelievers detest it. (Qur'an, 9: 32)**

In other words, God has sent His light to humanity through the religion that He has revealed: Islam. Those who do not believe want to extinguish this light by their "mouths"— intimations, propaganda, and philosophies, but God will finally perfect His light and give dominion to religious values.

Conclusion

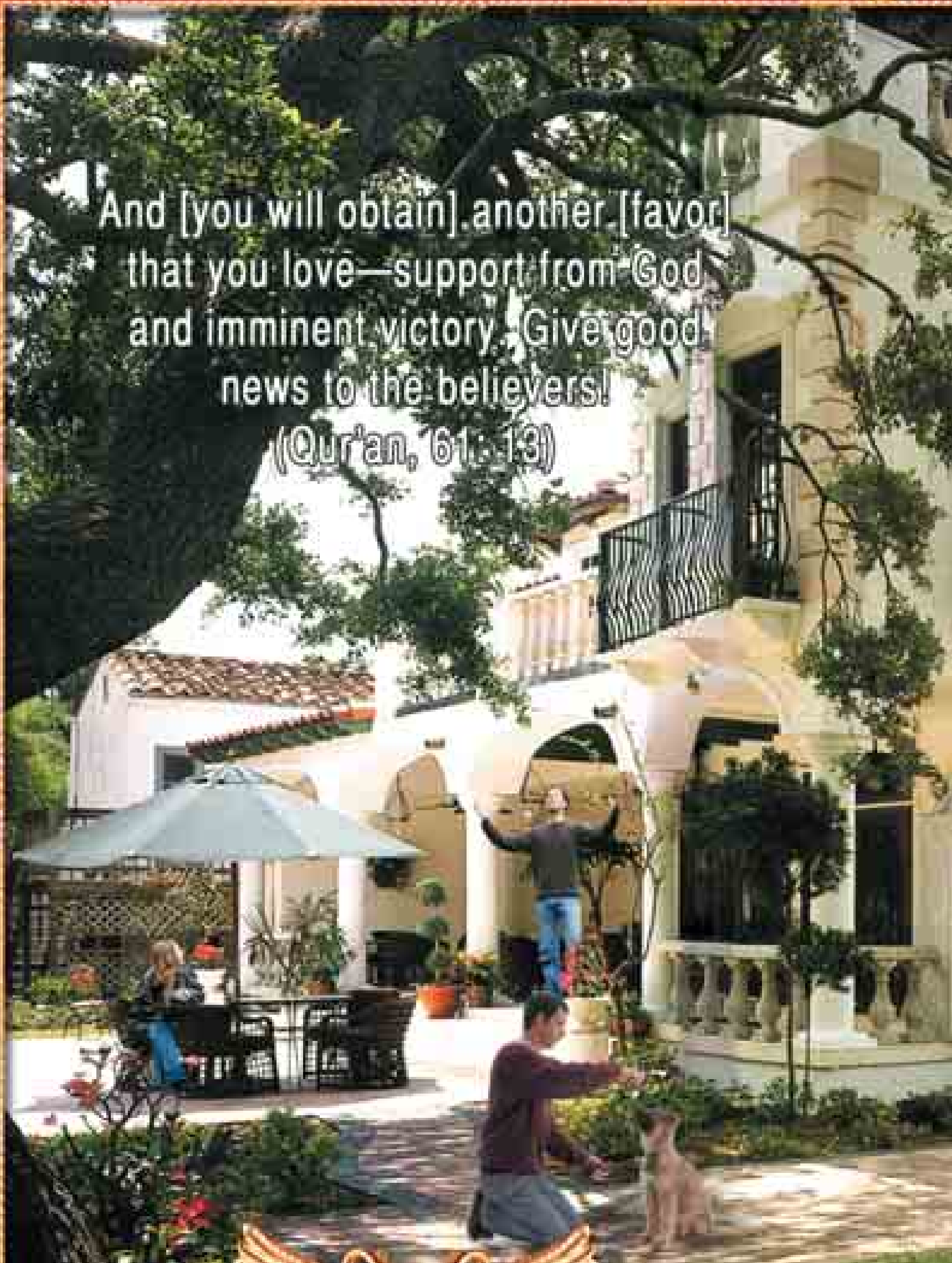
We are living at an important time. Atheism, which people have tried for hundreds of years to portray as the "way of reason and science," is proving to be mere irrationality and ignorance. Materialist philosophy, which sought to use science for its own ends, has been defeated by science. A world rescuing itself from atheism will turn to God and religion. But, to what religion will it turn? With God's permission, that religion will be Islam. As we will see in subsequent chapters, this process began long ago.

Clearly, Muslims have important duties in this period. They must be aware of this major change in the world's way of thinking,

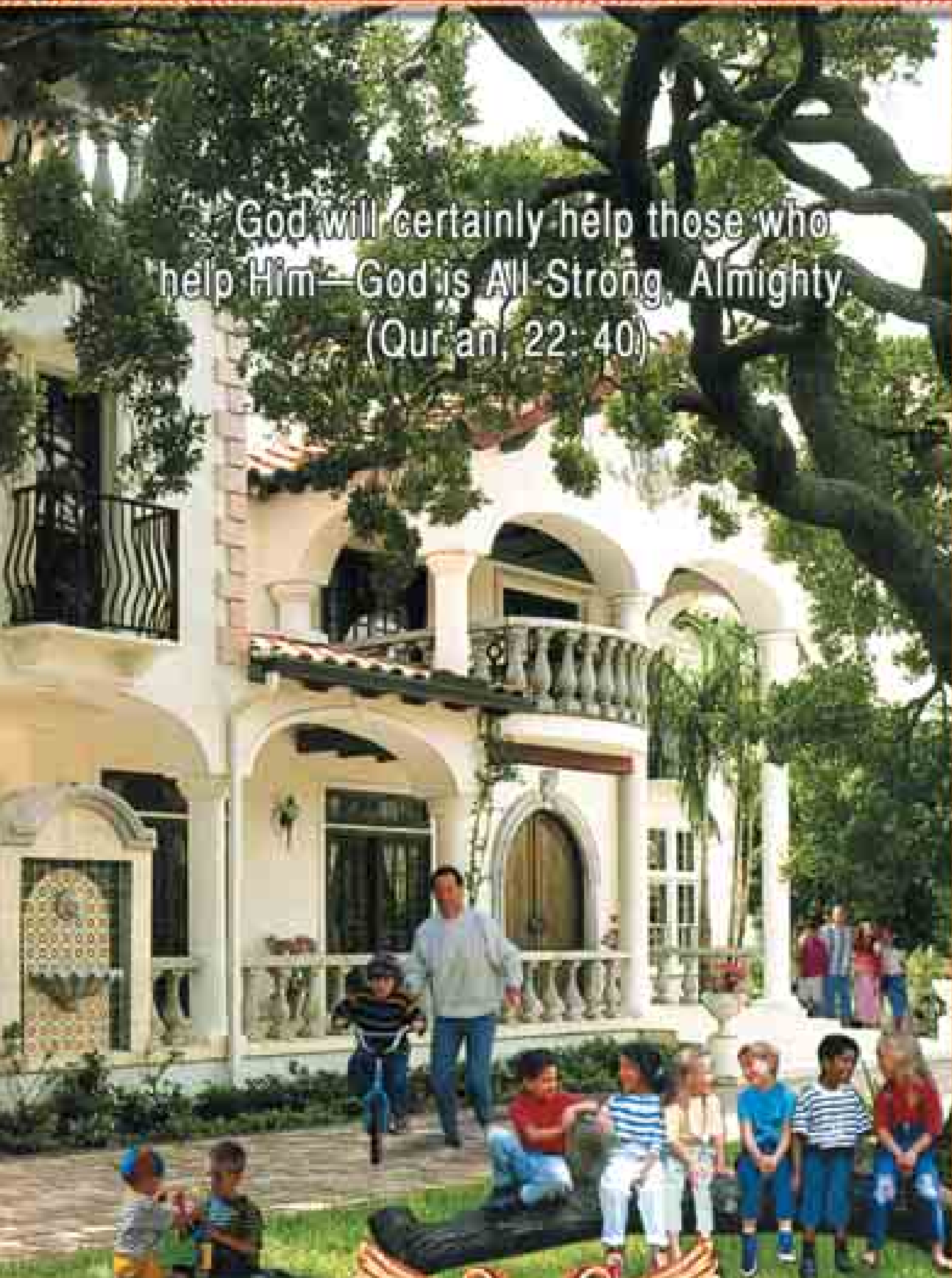
interpret it, make good use of the chances and opportunities provided by globalization, and effectively represent the truth along this road. They must know that the basic conflict of ideas is between atheism and faith. It is not a struggle between East and West, for both of these contain believers and atheists. For this reason, faithful Christians and faithful Jews are allies of Muslims. The main divergence is not between Muslims and the People of the Book (Jews and Christians), but between Muslims and the People of the Book on the one hand, and atheists and pagans on the other. Of course we must not show hostility to such people; rather, we must view them as people who need to be rescued from their error.

The time is fast approaching when many people who are living in ignorance with no knowledge of religious morality will be graced by faith in the impending post-atheist world.

Who could do greater wrong than someone who invents a lie against God when he has been called to Islam? God does not guide wrongdoing people. They desire to extinguish God's Light with their mouths but God will perfect His Light, though the unbelievers hate it. (Qur'an, 61:7-8)

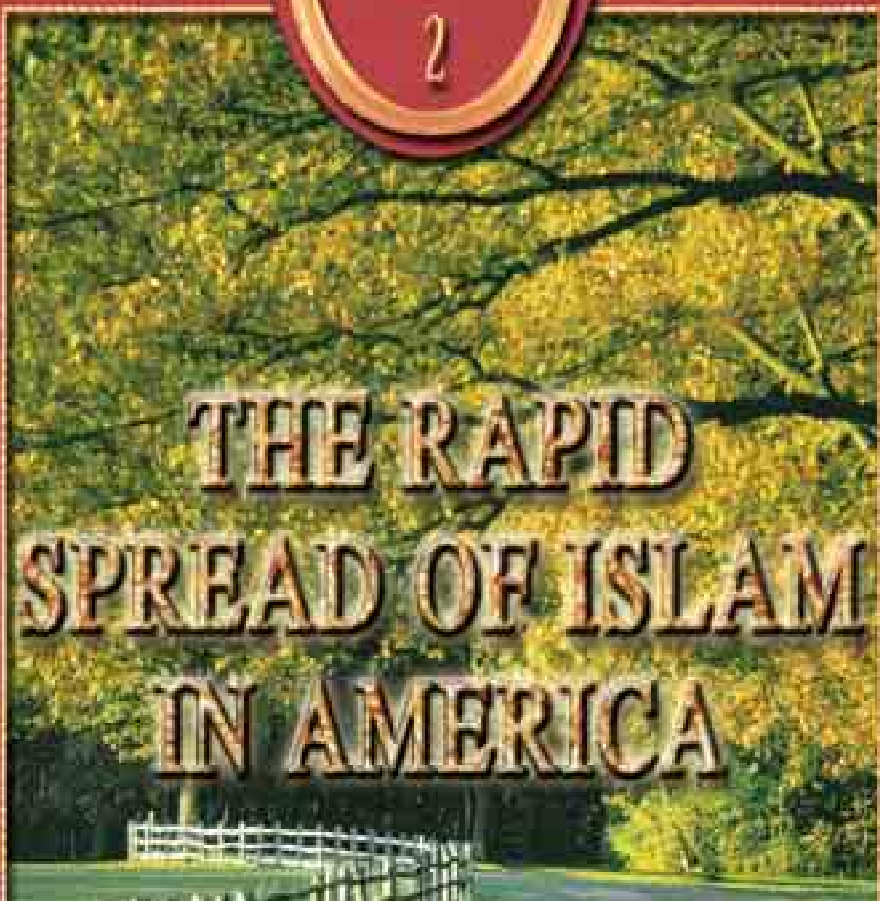


And [you will obtain] another [favor] that you love—support from God and imminent victory. Give good news to the believers!
(Qur'an, 61: 13)


... God will certainly help those who help Him—God is All-Strong, Almighty.
(Qur'an, 22: 40)

CHAPTER 2

THE RAPID SPREAD OF ISLAM IN AMERICA



In the previous chapter, we related that people were beginning to reject atheism and turn toward religion, and asked for what religion they were searching. The growing number of people turning to Islam in the last few years shows that the true answer to this question is starting to be discovered. Every day, interest in Islam is increasing throughout the world, and many people are converting after reading the Qur'an and studying the Prophet Muhammad's life. In addition, there are people who may have not started to practice Islam yet but who are very influenced by the Qur'an's moral teachings and say that the best way of life for human beings is the one described in the Qur'an.

Thirty or forty years ago, the great majority of people knew almost nothing about Islam; now, Islam has become the most talked about, written about, and researched religion in the world, as well as the religion about which the most programs have been prepared. Of course, this state of affairs has contributed to society's learning about Islam. On the one hand, those involved in such activities have expanded their knowledge about Islam; on the other hand, those to whom this information is directed may have taken the opportunity for the first time in their lives to gain knowledge about Islam. So, it is from the lack of information or wrong information that people who

have had little contact with Islam are coming to this religion in droves.

This movement is quite noticeable in the United States, a country founded on religious values. When Americans speak about their country, one of the things they stress is that people from every religious background are free to live together in peace and security. This situation has given Muslims immigrants a place to practice their religion freely and to talk about their faith. As a result, the number of Muslims increases daily. In spite of this, for years Muslims have remained small in numbers and economically and politically weak.

But over the past 10 years, these economic, social, and political difficulties have begun to disappear. In some states, existing mosques are filled to overflowing and new ones have been built. Hundreds of Islamic schools, both full-time and weekend, have opened and have had to expand to meet enrollment figures. Many companies have begun to set aside rooms for their Muslim employees, many banks have begun to open departments that operate according to Islamic law, and many state institutions have begun to hire Muslims for high-level positions.

A recent issue of *Christianity Today*, one of America's best-known magazines, contained an article entitled "Are Christians Prepared for Muslims in the Mainstream?" It gives this account of Islam's rise in America:

> Islam could be the second-largest religion in America by 2015, surpassing Judaism, according to some estimates. By other estimates, Islam has achieved that rank already.
>
> Muslims moving to the West are changing the cultural and religious landscape. A hospital in Detroit offers Muslim patients copies of the Qur'an; Denver International Airport includes a chapel for Muslim prayers; the U.S. Senate has invited a Muslim cleric to open its session in prayer; the military has hired four Muslim chaplains;



ABD üniversitelerinde İslâm'a ilgi artıyor

Interest in Islam increases in US universities

07.10.2001, Yeni Asya

ABD'de İslâma ilgi arttı

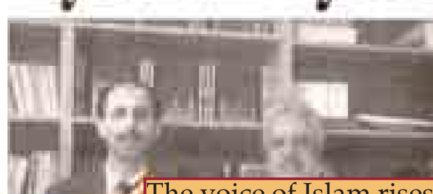
07.10.2001, Yeni Asya

Interest in Islam has increased in the US

With 7 million Muslims living in America, Islam has become the country's third largest religion. It is estimated that within the next 10 years, there will be more Muslims than Jews in America.

14.05.2001, Yeni Asya

İslâm'ın sadâsı yükseliyor



The voice of Islam rises

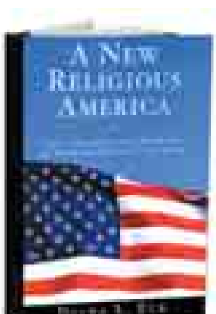
the White House sends greetings (like its Christmas cards) on Id al-Fitr, the feast that ends Ramadan; the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Washington D.C. sends 100 Qur'ans a month to prisons while imams (spiritual leaders) send volunteers to teach Arabic. "On Capitol Hill … weekly Muslim prayer services and forums to expose congressional staffers to Muslim viewpoints have become regular fare," notes Ira Rifkin of Religion News Service (Nov. 30, 1999), "and a bill has been introduced in Congress to issue a postage stamp commemorating Ramadan."[38]

These striking developments have attracted the interest of many sociologists. One of the most important names associated with this issue is Professor Dianne Eck, known for coining the name "Pluralism Project" for an enterprise in interfaith dialogue. In her book, *A New Religious America*, she gives an account of what she has determined about Islam's rapid rise:



As Muslims become more numerous and visible in American society, public officials have begun to shift from speaking of "churches and synagogues" to "churches, synagogues, and mosques." The annual observance of the Ramadan month of Muslim fasting now receives public notice and becomes the occasion

Professor Diana Eck, who has done important work with The Pluralism Project and in the field of interfaith dialogue, has attracted attention with her book *A New Religious America*.





The Internet site of the Project.

for portraits of the Muslims next door in the *Dallas Morning News* or the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. The fast-breaking meals called "iftar" at the close of each day have become moments of recognition. In the late 1990s there were iftar observances by Muslim staffers on Capitol Hill, in the Pentagon, and in the State Department. In 1996 the White House hosted the first observance of the celebration of Eid al-Fitr at the end of the month of Ramadan, a practice that has continued. The same year also saw the U.S. Navy commission its first Muslim chaplain, Lieutenant M. Malak Abd al-Muta' Ali Noel, and in 1998 the U.S. Navy's first mosque was opened on the Norfolk Naval Base in Virginia, where Lieutenant Noel was stationed. When 50 sailors attend Friday prayers at this facility, they signal to all of us a new era of American religious life.[39]

Eck considers these developments a sign of the beginning of a new age, one in which Islam will spread quickly, not only throughout America but throughout the world.

Developments After 9/11

American interest in Islam reached its pinnacle in the last quarter of 2001. The most important reason for this was the 9/11 attacks against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Several studies undertaken to determine the roots of terrorist ideology, as well as investigations of Islam, have enabled people to learn that Islam is a peaceful religion that enjoins tolerance, justice, mercy, and love. Islam has suddenly

become a major topic of discussion all over the world. More and more world-renowned statesmen, political scientists, researchers, and thinkers consider it necessary to understand Islam correctly, and have given speeches underlining Islamic tolerance and willingness to reach agreement. Americans have approached Muslim organizations in order to find the most accurate information about Islam and Islamic history. As a result of this interest, the Middle East Media Research Institute reported that after 9/11, 34,000 Americans converted to Islam.[40]

The Egyptian weekly *al-Ahram al-Arabi* published a letter by Dr. Walid A. Fatihi of the Harvard Medical Faculty. In it, he stated that when he first heard of the attack, he thought that the work he had done to introduce Islam to America would be set back by 50 years. However, he soon realized how wrong he was. He continues:

> On Saturday, September 15, I went with my wife and children to the biggest church in Boston, [Trinity Church in] Copley Square, by official invitation of the Islamic Society of Boston, to represent Islam by special invitation of the senators of Boston. Present were the mayor of Boston, his wife, and the heads of the universities. There were more than 1,000 people there ...
>
> I read an official statement issued by the leading Muslim clerics condemning the incident [i.e., the attacks]. The statement explained Islam's stance and principles, and its sublime precepts. Afterwards, I read Koranic verses translated into English…
>
> One said to me: "I do not understand the Arabic language, but there is no doubt that the things you said are the words of Allah."
>
> On Sunday, September 16, the Islamic Society of Boston issued an open invitation to the Islamic Center in Cambridge, located between Harvard and MIT. We did not expect more than 100 people, but to our surprise more than 1,000 people came, among them the

neighbors, the university lecturers, members of the clergy, and even the leaders of the priests from the nearby churches, who invited us to speak on Islam. All expressed solidarity with Muslims. Many questions flowed to us. Everyone wanted to know about Islam and to understand its precepts…

That same day, I was invited again to participate in a meeting in the church, and again I saw the same things. On Thursday, a delegation of 300 students and lecturers from Harvard visited the center of the Islamic Society of Boston, accompanied by the American Ambassador to Vienna. They sat on the floor of the mosque, which was filled to capacity. We explained to them the precepts of Islam, and defended it from any suspicions [promulgated in the media]. I again read to them from the verses of Allah, and [their] eyes filled with tears. The audience was moved, and many asked to participate in the weekly lessons for non-Muslims held by the Islamic Center…

On Friday, September 21, the Muslims participated in a closed meeting with the governor of Massachusetts. In the meeting, a discussion was held on introducing Islam into the school curriculum, to inform the [American] people and to fight racism against Muslims arising from the American people's ignorance regarding the religion …

These are only some of the examples of what happened and is happening in the city of Boston, and in many other American cities, during these days. Proselytizing in the name of Allah has not been undermined, and has not been set back 50 years, as we thought in the first days after September 11. On the contrary, the 11 days that have passed are like 11 years in the history of proselytizing in the name of Allah. I write to you today with the absolute confidence that over the next few years, Islam will spread in America and in the entire world, Allah willing, much more quickly than it has spread in the past, because the entire world is asking, "What is Islam!"[41]



New York Region

The New York Times

Terror Attacks Could Change Paths of Faith

By DANIEL J. WAKIN

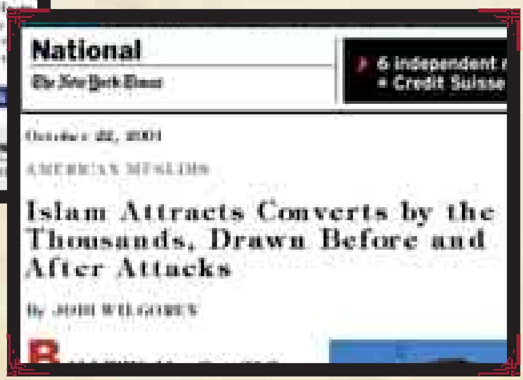
"Can I pray for you?"

"Are you going to heaven?"

"If you were to meet the Lord today, are you ready?"

Members of Calvary Chapel, a California evangelical church, greet rescue workers and passers-by on the edge of ground zero, putting tracts in their hands and prayers in their ears. Burly firefighters, their breathing masks swinging at their belts, walk on, offering

(left) ***A New York Times*** **report entitled "Terror Attacks Could Change Paths of Faith" dealt with the increasing number of people turning to religion after 9/11. An investigation that appeared in the report revealed that after 9/11, four in every five persons prayed or attended a religious service.**



National

The New York Times

AMERICAN MUSLIMS

Islam Attracts Converts by the Thousands, Drawn Before and After Attacks

By JODI WILGOREN

In a ***New York Times*** **report in the entitled "Islam Attracts Converts by the Thousands, Drawn Before and After the Attacks," the growth in the number of Americans converting to Islam was discussed. The report stressed the rising number of converts after 9/11.**

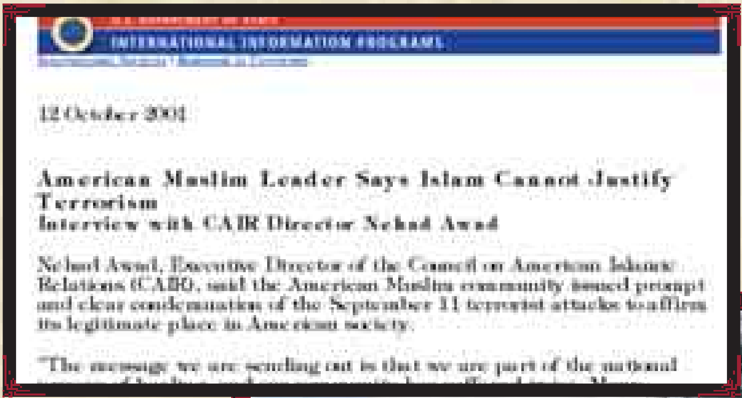


Müslüman-Hıristiyan dayanışması

Muslim-Christian solidarity

17.09.2001, Yeni Asya

One of the most striking scenes shown by the media after 9/11 was that of Muslims and Christians sharing their grief and praying together.



INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAMS

12 October 2001

American Muslim Leader Says Islam Cannot Justify Terrorism
Interview with CAIR Director Nehad Awad

Nehad Awad, Executive Director of the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR), said the American Muslim community issued prompt and clear condemnation of the September 11 terrorist attacks to affirm its legitimate place in American society.

"The message we are sending out is that we are part of the national



Muslims in London's Hyde Park pray for victims of the attacks

The 9/11 attack was severely condemned by Muslims (above). Nihad Awad, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, stressed in a report that there was no place for terror in Islam.

Muslims throughout the world prayed for those who died in the 9/11 attacks. Muslims living in London gathered to pray in Hyde Park.



The Star.
KansasCity.com

Muslim faith opposed to terrorism, experts say

"Islamic terrorism."

The words have been repeated like a mantra by media commentators, around dinner tables, in workplaces and schools. Yet Muslims and Islamic scholars say it would be hard to find two words more opposite in meaning.

Experts say that to be a Muslim -- which means to be a follower of Islam -- is to be fundamentally opposed to the acts last week that likely killed more than 5,000 people at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Indeed, Muslims in Kansas City and nationwide say they are as offended

In a *Kansas City Star* report entitled "Muslim faith opposed to terrorism, experts say," experts state that Islam is against every kind of terror. After 9/11, many newspapers and television programs reported the Muslim opposition to terror.

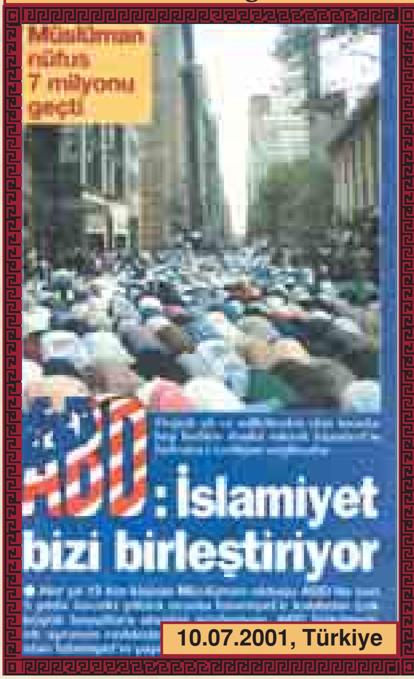
On a television program broadcast one week after 9/11, Eck related what that event had changed:

> And yet most of us don't really see it [positive changes]. I think one of the real gifts, if we could call it that, of the last week has been the recognition that we are religiously diverse in ways we had never imagined…[42]

This increased interest in Islam caught the American press' attention, and the issue became a topic on television news programs. One newspaper that took up this issue was *The Los Angeles Times*. An article entitled "Expressions of Support Surprising to Muslims" reported that one of the most unexpected results was that Americans had begun to study and investigate Islam, and that this interest was so intense that it even surprised Muslims:

> Many Americans also are investigating, some for the first time, one of the world's great faiths and oldest civilizations. Bookstores are selling out of copies of the Koran. University classes and teach-ins on the Middle East and Islam are filled to capacity. Middle East scholars are being invited on television news shows repeatedly and being spotted on the street like celebrities. And many everyday Middle Easterners—Muslim or not—are fielding a daily barrage of questions about Islam from neighbors, co-workers and strangers… "We are overwhelmed," said Mahmoud Abdel-Baset, religious director of the Islamic Center of Southern California. Since the attacks, the Los Angeles-based center has hosted a steady stream of dignitaries, including Gov. Gray Davis, Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca and Los Angeles Mayor James K. Hahn... Richard Hrair Dekmejian, a USC professor on Middle Eastern politics, said this thirst for knowledge about Islam is a result of the powerful impact of the Sept. 11 attacks and the general lack of religious knowledge in America.[43]

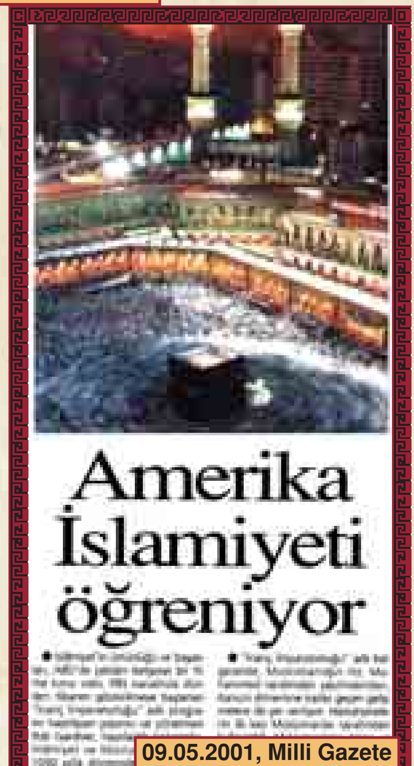
The Muslim population has passed 7 million
US: Islam is uniting us


Müslüman nüfus 7 milyonu geçti

ABD: İslamiyet bizi birleştiriyor

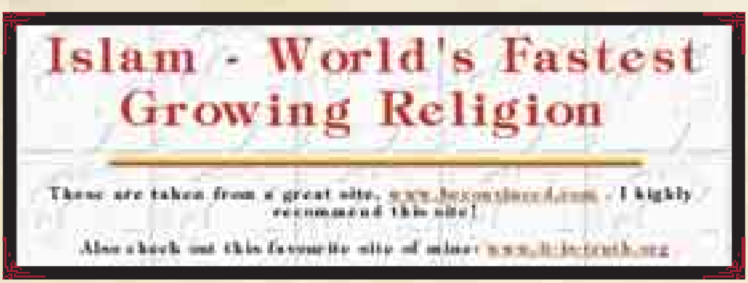
10.07.2001, Türkiye

In America, many mosques were filled to overflowing at Friday prayers and streets were filled with Muslims performing their prayers.


Amerika İslamiyeti öğreniyor

09.05.2001, Milli Gazete

America is learning about Islam



An internet site called "Islam-World's Fastest Growing Religion" carries many items about the growth of Islam. (www.geocities.com/Pentagon/3016/fastest.htm)

Interest in Islam increases in the US



“ABD’de İslama ilgi arttı”

04.11.2002, Milli Gazete



Amerikan Müslümanları Cemiyeti Genel Başkanı Nihad Iyaz:

İslâm ABD’de yayılacak

28.10.2001, Milli Gazete

Islam will spread in the US



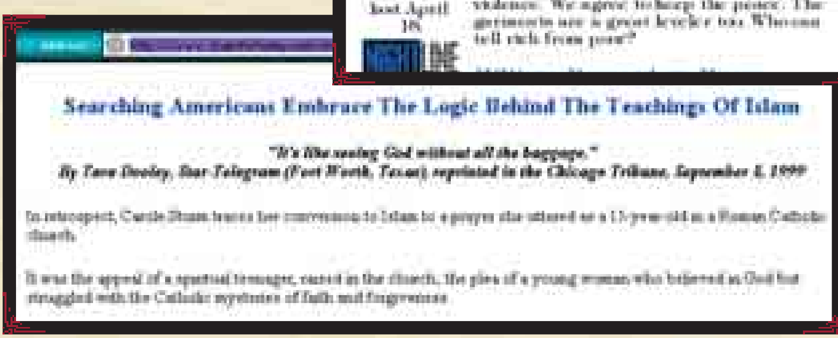
An American in Mecca

By Michael Wolfe
Special to ABCNEWS.com

I am a Muslim. I revere the same God as my Christian mother and my Jewish father. Allah is simply the Arabic word for the God of Abraham, Moses and Jesus. I find the absence of priests and rabbis attractive.

Michael Wolfe, a Muslim, reported on the pilgrimage to Mecca last April 18.

One of the frequently reported topics in the American press is about converts to Islam. An ABC report entitled "An American in Mecca" recounts Michael Wolfe's pilgrimage. His mother is Christian and his father is Jewish.



Searching Americans Embrace The Logic Behind The Teachings Of Islam

"It's like seeing God without all the baggage."
By Tara Dooley, Star-Telegram (Fort Worth, Texas), reprinted in the Chicago Tribune, September 5, 1999

The Chicago Tribune **deals with the rise of Islam in an article called "Searching Americans Embrace the Logic behind the Teachings of Islam."**



Christian Science Monitor csmonitor

Living > Religion & Ethics
from the January 10, 2002 edition

Muslim in America

By Jane Lampman | Staff writer of The Christian

One of the places where Islam is most discussed in America is in universities. In this *Christian Science Monitor* report, we see a meeting held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), one of America's most prestigious universities.



Newsday.com Features. Minute by Minute.

Defending Their Faith

For the last five weeks, the Islamic center of Long Island in Westbury has opened its doors to a community in search of answers.

By Carol Eisenberg
Staff Writer

October 16, 2001



Islam Rising Tide in America

ISLAM

"Islam is a peaceful religion. Some would try to connect terrorism to Islam, which is wrong."

By Burr Seitz
ABCNEWS.com

Aaron Cambel was an American kid who used to hang out with friends cruising the local mall, picking up girls, checking out the latest fashions and getting in trouble.

"I was realized if I took the same path, I would have ended up the way they did, wasting my life away," says Cambel, who lives in Washington.

So he converted to Islam.

"It was the most simple and direct to understand of the religions I looked into."

As a result of the post-9/11 interest in Islam, Muslims were inundated as never before with questions about Islam. *Newsday* reported that a mosque on Long Island is overflowing with people interested in learning about Islam.

In an ABC report on its Internet site shows images of Muslims performing their prayers on New York streets.

In America today, the interest begun with 9/11 continues to intensify and become more widespread. In the following pages, we will see the rise of Islam in America. As we look at all of these developments, we must keep in mind one basic fact: God has given the good news of His promise to believers that true religion will be established among human beings. The events we have experienced show us that, God willing, the fulfillment of this promise is very near. For this reason, we are living in a crucial period and a time of profound change. Believers must realize the value of this period, offer the best and most accurate information to those who are slowly turning to Islam, answer their questions in the most satisfactory way, and be zealous representatives of Islam. As the verse below says, this is an important charge given by God to believers:

Call to the way of your Lord with wisdom and fair admonition, and argue with them in the kindest way. Your Lord knows best who is misguided from His way. And He knows best who are guided. (Qur'an, 16: 125)

Muslims in America

There are between 6 and 7 million Muslims in America today. In other words, Muslims outnumber some Christian denominations and are equal to the number of Jews. Research done in the year 2000 by prominent American universities and Islamic foundations show that the number of Muslims is increasing rapidly and that Islam is growing stronger day by day.

The main theme of this research, known as the *Mosque Study Project*, is the establishment of mosques in America. The reason for this is that mosques occupy a very special place in any statistical com-

pilations done with regard to the American Muslim community. Mosques in America are both houses of worship and gathering places for talking with one another and launching cultural activities to make Islam more widely known. Every mosque establishes a relationship with the press to introduce Islam to a wider audience, speaks with local politicians, visits schools and churches, engages in interfaith dialogue and carries on other such activities. Thus, research done on these mosques is one of the most useful tools for gathering accurate and enlightening information on this community's state.

According to this research, America now has about 1,209 mosques, most of which were constructed very recently. Thirty percent of these mosques were built in the 1990s, and 32% were built in the 1980s. Other statistics show that in 1994, the total number of mosques in America was 962; in 2000, there was a 25% increase in this number.

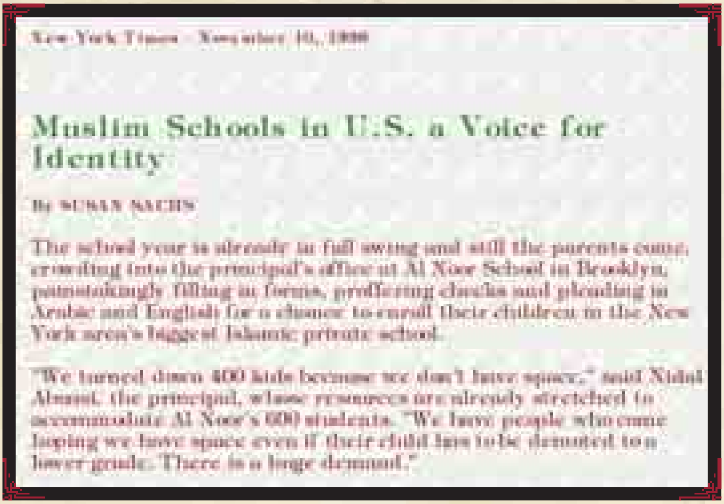
These data show a natural parallel with the growing number of Muslims. For example, according to determinations made in 1994, the number of Muslims attending mosque services was 500,000; in 2000, this figure had increased to 2 million—an approximately 300% increase. A significant part of this number is composed of people who converted to Islam. The same research shows that about 30% of those worshippers are converts. According to these data, about 20,000 Americans accept Islam every year.[44]

The above figures are the result of research done before 9/11 and rely on data from the year 2000. In 2001, especially after 9/11, these figures have increased several fold.

This rapid growth of Islam in America is related in a news article, "Islam Is Growing in America," on the American army Internet site (www.defenselink.mil)

> Muslims, those who believe in Islam, are everywhere in the United States. They may be your doctor or drive your taxi. They may serve

An important indication of Islam's rapid growth in America is the increasing number of schools offering an Islamic education. A *New York Times* report on New York's Islamic schools tells of the students' intense interest.



Muslim Schools in U.S. a Voice for Identity

By SUSAN SACHS

The school year is already in full swing and still the parents come, crowding into the principal's office at Al Noor School in Brooklyn, painstakingly filling in forms, proffering checks and pleading in Arabic and English for a chance to enroll their children in the New York area's biggest Islamic private school.

"We turned down 400 kids because we don't have space," said Nidal Alsaal, the principal, whose resources are already stretched to accommodate Al Noor's 600 students. "We have people who come hoping we have space even if their child has to be demoted to a lower grade. There is a huge demand."

San Diego's Muslims, as well as many others in America, were faced with a barrage of questions after 9/11. This appeared in a report entitled "Muslims bridge religious gaps by teaching more about faith."



SignOnSanDiego.com

ISLAM 101

Muslims bridge religious gaps by teaching more about faith

By By Sandi Dolbee
RELIGION & ETHICS EDITOR
October 12, 2001

In the painful month since the Sept. 11 attacks, and the tension from this week's military strikes by the United States, San Diego Muslims are discovering an antidote to the fear and suspicion surrounding their faith: education.

They are fielding questions from colleagues at work and neighbors on their block. They are meeting with students and faculty on college campuses and with news

Islam's influence in the world

BRAVE NEW SCHOOLS

Islam studies required in California district

Course has 7th-graders memorizing Koran verses, praying to Allah

© 2002 WorldNetDaily.com

In the wake of Sept. 11, an increasing number of California public school students must attend an intensive three-week course on Islam, reports ASSIST News Service.

The course mandates that seventh-graders learn the tenets of Islam, study the important figures

A report on the *Worldnet Daily* Internet site states that after 9/11, students joined special educational programs to learn more about Islam. They were required to memorize Qur'anic verses and study Islamic history.

A report in *The Oregonian*, entitled "New Focus: Exploring Islam and Its Traditions," gives general information about American Muslims and Islam.

The New York Times

METROPOLITAN DESK | February 6, 1997, Thursday

Ramadan Enters New York City School Life

By SOMINI SENGUPTA (NYT) 1,190 words
Late Edition - Final, Section A, Page 1, Column 3

ABSTRACT - Rites of Ramadan, Islam's holiest period, have quietly seeped into culture of New York City's schools as new immigrants and converts swell numbers of Muslims in city; since Jan 10, when Ramadan began, thousands of teen-agers, like Muslim youths across country, have been fasting from dawn to dusk, inserting into their daily school routines their

The Oregonian

More From The Oregonian

News

News Focus: Exploring Islam and its traditions

09/30/01

MUSLIMS IN OREGON

-- An estimated 15,000 Muslims live in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

-- An estimated 7 million Muslims live in the United States.

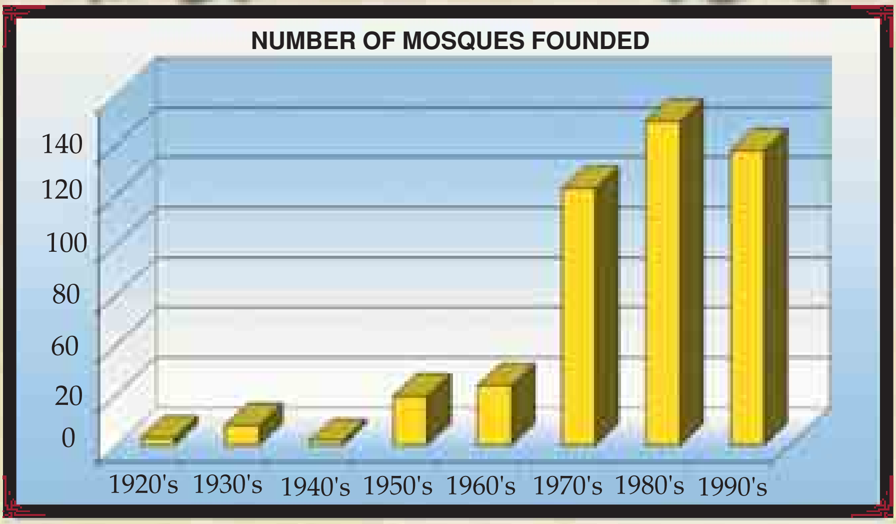
-- The worldwide Muslim population is estimated at 1.2 billion.

-- Oregon is home to seven mosques and Islamic centers, four weekend schools and one full-time school for prekindergarten through grade seven.

-- The United States has more than 1,500 mosques, Islamic schools and Islamic centers.

Coming events for the Portland-area's Muslim community

In the above edition of the *New York Times*, a report entitled "Ramadan Enters New York City School Life" tells about the special Ramadan arrangements made in New York district schools for Muslim students.



The above graphic representation shows the rising numbers of mosques in America. Below we see pictures of mosques in various states.


Arizona


New York


Islamic Cultural Center of New York


Inside of Islamic Cultural Center of New York


Washington D.C.


Michigan


Los Angeles


Colorado


California


Indiana


Texas

Growing Islam : Many American mosques report rising attendance, robust spiritual health

AP, Aug. 4, 2001
http://www.accessatlanta.com/ •

More News

Mosques in America are generally places with a growing community of believers that have a vital spiritual life and offer social services to the faithful --- so says the leader of the first comprehensive survey of Islam in the United States.

Ihsan Bagby of Shaw University in Raleigh led a project in which the leaders of 416 of America's roughly 1,200 mosques were interviewed last year. The survey, released this spring, was analyzed at a recent Islam in America conference in Indianapolis, organized by the Islamic Society of North America, a co-sponsor of Bagby's research.

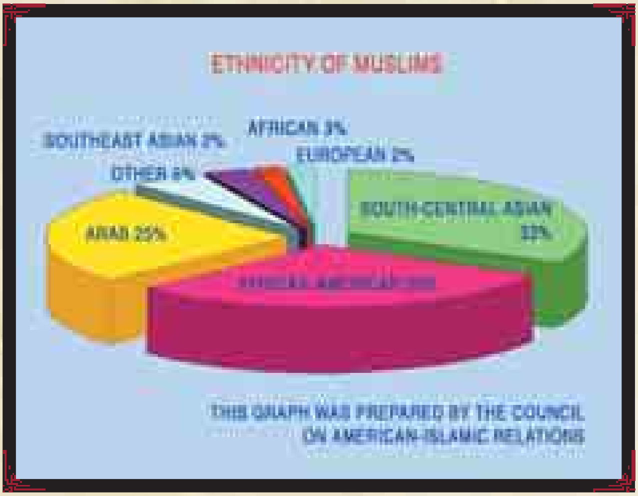
The survey provided the first hard numbers on the extent of the faith in America. Today, an estimated 6 million to 7 million Americans consider themselves orthodox Muslims.

The above report in the August 4, 2001, edition of the *Associated Press* news agency states that many more Americans are attending mosques than ever before. According to this report, "Growing Islam," an investigation led by Ihsan Bagby, a faculty member of Shaw University, revealed that American Muslims are far more active in mosque-related activities today than they were in the past.

Mosque affiliation

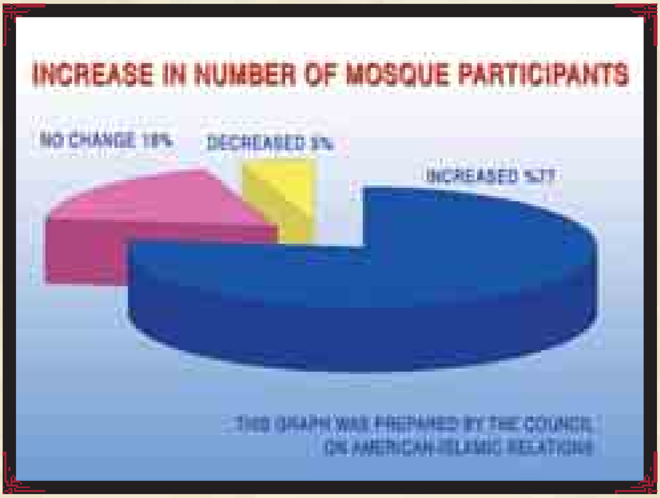
	1994	2000	CHANGE
Total number of mosques	962	1,209	+25%
Muslims per mosque	485	1,625	+25
Total affiliated Muslims	500,000	2 million	+25

According to this chart in the October 1, 2001, edition of *Newsweek*, in 1994 there were 962 mosques in America and 485 Muslims per mosque, with a total of 500,000 affiliated Muslims. In 2000, the number of mosques was 1,209, 1,625 Muslims per mosque, and a total affiliation of 2 million.



In this chart we see the ethnic distribution of American Muslims. The great majority of America's Muslim population is South-Central Asian.

This chart on the right shows the rising mosque attendance rates by American Muslims. There has been a 77% increase.
The fact sheet below, prepared by the U.S. Department of State, includes the main figures about Muslim life in America.




INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAMS

Demographic Facts

- Mosques in the United States: 1,209
- American Muslims associated with a mosque: 2 million
- Increase in number of mosques since 1994: 25 percent
- Proportion of mosques founded since 1980: 62 percent
- Average number of Muslims associated with each mosque in the United States: 1,625
- U.S. mosque participants who are converts: 30 percent
- American Muslims who "strongly agree" that they should participate in American institutions and the political process: 70 percent
- U.S. mosques attended by a single ethnic group: 7 percent
- U.S. mosques that have some Asian, African-American, and Arab members:

you in restaurants or advise you in law. And they increasingly may be in the same foxhole, manning the same position or working on the same aircraft as you … In the United States, Islam is the fastest growing religion …[45]

A *New York Times* article, "Islam Attracts Converts by the Thousands," contains interviews with converts, analyzes Islam's rapid rise in America, and states:

With some 6 million adherents in the United States, Islam is said to be the nation's fastest-growing religion, fueled by immigration, high birth rates and widespread conversion. One expert estimates that 25,000 people a year become Muslims in this country; some clerics say they have seen conversion rates quadruple since Sept. 11.[46]

An *ABC News* segment, "Islam: Rising Tide in America," reported that some sociologists predict that within 15 years there will be more Muslims than Jews in America.[47]

The continually rising influence of Islam has provided better opportunities for Muslims living in America. One place where this growth and development is most noticeable is in Dearborn, Michigan. An article in the *Detroit News* about the spread of Islam, particularly in Dearborn, mentioned the city's growing number of mosques. But, according to the article, this is not the only sign of Islam's rising influence; the effects of this growth can be seen in restaurants, shopping centers, and hospitals. For the first time in Michigan, in a McDonald's restaurant, meals are available using meat cut according to Islamic law. Prominent supermarkets in Dearborn have begun to sell "halal" meat. Oakwood Hospital officials have started to adjust the hospital's meal service especially for Muslim patients. Moreover, throughout the month of Ramadan, the cafeteria's service hours are arranged to suit Muslims.[48]

Like Dearborn, Muslims in Chicago are also quickly gaining in-



THE FLORIDA TIMES - UNION

Thursday, December 9, 1999

Story last updated at 11:54 p.m. on Wednesday, December 8, 1999

Finding faith in Islam

As the holy month of Ramadan begins, 3 converts share what attracted them to their new religion

By Bruce Bryant Friedland
Times-Union staff writer

A *Florida Times* report, "Finding Faith in Islam," tells about the converts' thoughts and ideas. A *Seattle Times* article entitled "Mosque overflows with faithful" reports that Seattle Muslims are crowding into their mosques.



The Seattle Times

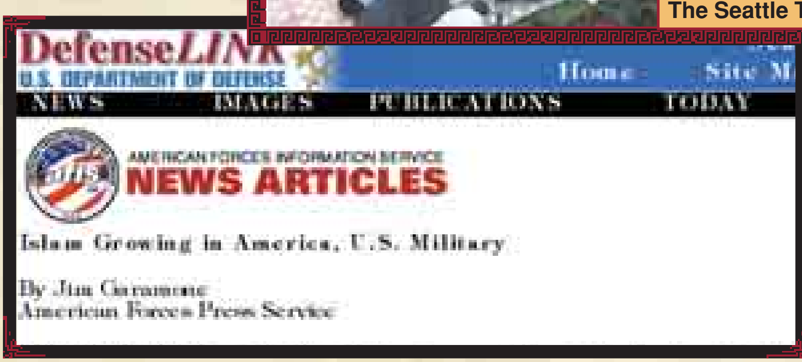
Mosque overflows with faithful

SeaTac neighborhood amazed by growth of region's oldest Muslim worship

'There seems to be less room for people of religious belief,' mosque leader says

04.08.2001, The Seattle Times

(below) A report on the American Ministry of Defense's Internet site, entitled "Islam Growing in America," gives an account of the Muslims' increasing influence in American social life and introduces basic Islamic values.



DefenseLINK
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
Home Site M

NEWS IMAGES PUBLICATIONS TODAY

AMERICAN FORCES INFORMATION SERVICE
NEWS ARTICLES

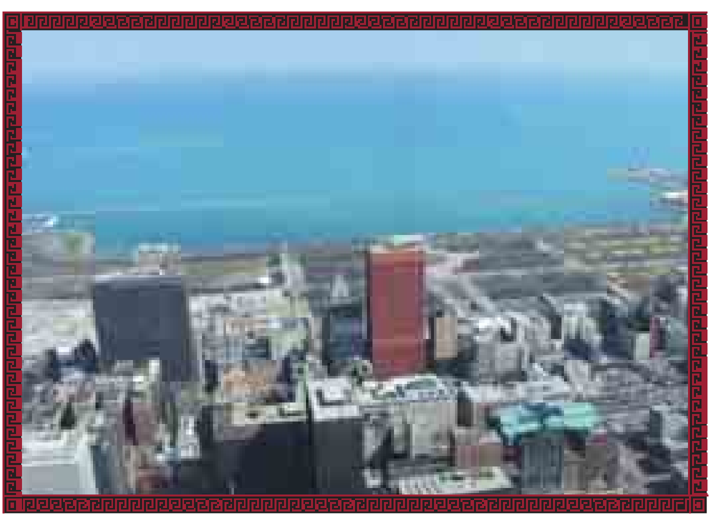
Islam Growing in America, U.S. Military

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

fluence. Here, the Muslim community is distinguished by its high level of education and prosperity. Research conducted in the 1990s demonstrated that 16% of the Muslim community's members were medical doctors, 33% were engineers, 44% had doctorate degrees, 84% had at least a bachelor's degree, and only 2% had less than a high school education. Moreover, Muslims' contributions to Chicago were highlighted. For example, the architect of the John Hancock Center and the Sears Tower was a Muslim: Dr. Fazlur Rahman. There is hardly a hospital without a Muslim doctor on its staff and there is hardly an engineering or electronic equipment manufacturer without Muslim engineers.[49]

Muslims in the American Army

The Muslim presence in the American army is increasing day by day. At the beginning of the 1990s there were 2,500 Muslims in the army; now there are between 15,000 and 20,000 soldiers.[50] There are



The famous John Hancock Center and the Sears Tower were constructed by a Muslim architect.

two reasons for this rapid increase: the general increase of the Muslim population in America and that some soldiers who served in Muslim countries converted. Their continual increase has allowed them to perform their religious duties in peace. The first of these was the army's appointment of a Muslim chaplain to minister to Muslim soldiers, an important indication that the Muslims' presence in the army has been officially recognized. Colonel Herman Keizer spoke of this fact in a 1994 speech: "This reflected the growing number of Muslims in the services over the past 10 years. It mirrors growth in the US society … where Islam is the fastest growing religion in the United States."[51]

As a result, the army has made some concessions to make life easier for Muslim soldiers. For example, pork is not included in their meals, they can perform their Friday congregational prayers, and those who wish to make pilgrimage have an easier time of fulfilling this obligation. These concessions were reported in the *Washington Post* in 1998:

> During Ramadan, when Muslims refrain from food and drink during daylight hours, military commanders are urged to accommodate their fasting servicemen and women—excusing them, in some cases, from rigorous physical exercise. The commanders also allow flexible work hours so Muslims can take iftar, the traditional fast-ending meal, and attend the social gatherings and community prayers that usually follow.[52]

Thus the American armed forces are genuinely interested in Muslims and try to meet their needs when possible. One of the main reasons for this is certainly the religious character of the American people. The belief of many Americans in God has led them to adopt a respectful and tolerant attitude toward Muslims, especially after they have learned about Islamic values. On of the best instances of this can

be seen in an address given by the former Deputy Defense Secretary John Hamre:

> I think that as Muslims and as Christians, we understand what it means to live under a world of authority—the authority that's been revealed to us by God…. We are partners and we are friends and we celebrate with our Islamic brothers and sisters tonight in this feast, and throughout the year. In an America that sometimes is too busy worrying about the latest fad in clothes, or the newest model of car or other material things, it is good to be with people who think in a broader way, who think about their relationship to God, who think about charity, alms giving, as one of the central mandates of life. This is a great thing. You're a great people to be with.[53]

Islam in the American Media

Today, the media is one of the most influential factors in forming public opinion, for it instills in people either a sympathy for or an aversion to a particular issue and gets them to accept or oppose it. How the media has influenced the American people's view of Islam is a case in point.



Islam and the American Army



Pilot Online

News / Religion

Norfolk is first base to house Islamic site of worship

M. Malak Abd Al Muta'Ali ibn Noel, Jr. a chaplain in the U.S. Navy, sits in the Muslim Mosque at the Norfolk Naval Base. It's the first Naval Base to have a permanent Muslim temple.

Norfolk Naval Base is the first base to open a prayer center for Muslim soldiers. A *Virginian Pilot* report tells about this center.



The first Muslim chaplain in the American Navy, Mangi Noel, receives the requisite certification before assuming his duties.



The American army is looking for an imam



Amerikan Ordusu imam arıyor

22.05.2001, Milli Gazete

The call to prayer in the camp



Kampta ezan sesi

ABD'nin Guantanamo'daki esir kampında tuttuğu Taliban ve El Kaide militanları ilk kez Bangladeş doğumlu Amerikalı bir teğmenin okuduğu ezan eşliğinde namaz kılma imkânı buldu

KISA KISA

26.01.2002, Akşam



ABD askerleri namazda

17.10.2001, Takvim

US soldiers at prayer

Lieutenant Abdullah Al-Mubarak is seen giving an address at the second iftar meal held at the Pentagon.





Amerikan askeri namazda

16.09.2001, Türkiye

An American soldier at prayer



ABD, Ramazan ve Kurban bayramları için pul bastırdı

ABD Posta Servisi, ülkedeki Müslümanlara yönelik olarak, Ramazan ve Kurban bayramları için pul bastırdı. Güney California'nın Santa Ana kentinde düzenlenen törende tanıtılan mavi ve sarı renkli pullar, hafta sonunda ülkedeki bütün posta şubelerinde satışa çıkarılacak. Posta Servisi sözcüsü David Mazer, yaptığı konuşmada, pulun Ramazan ve Kurban bayramları ithaf edildiğini, bu çalışmanın, Posta Servisi'nin ulusun çeşitliliğini tanıma çabasının bir parçası olduğunu söyledi. Mazer, "Ülkede 6 ila 7 milyon Müslüman yaşıyor. Onların kültürel mirası bizim mirasım

06.09.2001, Gözcü

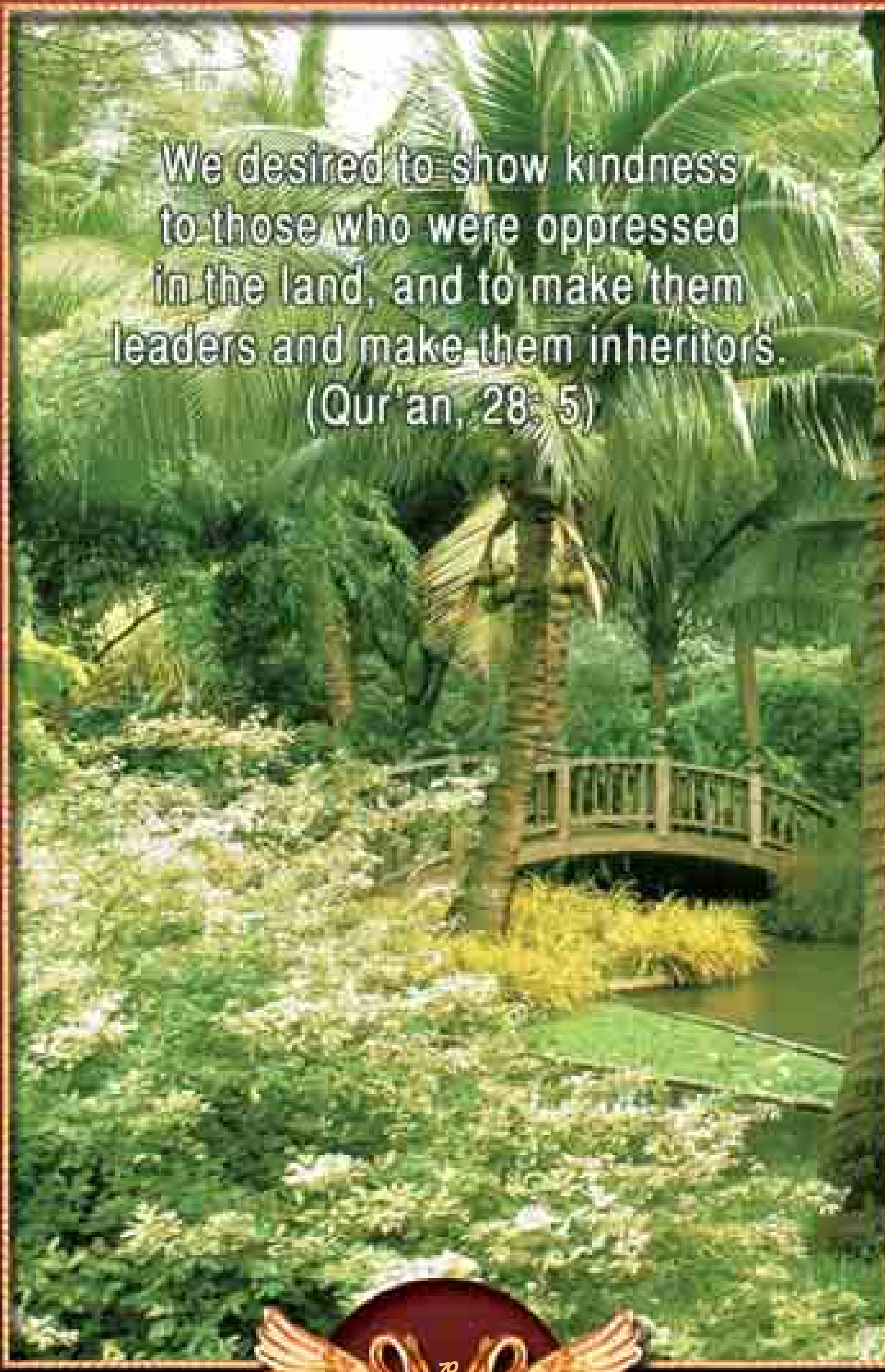
The US issued a postage stamp commemorating Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha



The U.S. postage stamp highlighting Muslim holidays has been in use since September 2001. The Eid stamp features the Arabic phrase "Eid Mubarak" written in the *tuluth* calligraphic style .



A view of American Muslim leaders with a special stamp being printed by the U.S. postal service.


We desired to show kindness
to those who were oppressed
in the land, and to make them
leaders and make them inheritors.
(Qur'an, 28: 5)

Until recently, Islam generally had a bad press in certain sectors of the American media, which tried to convince people that Islam was an Arab religion and that negative stereotypes of Arabs were generally true. But this false information and prejudiced view had exactly the opposite effect: Contrary to the expected alienation of public opinion from Islam, it became the fastest growing religion in America. These reports brought Muslims and Islam into the lives of the American people. In this way, many who knew nothing about Islam were informed and began to take an interest in it. This is also a realization of the Qur'anic verse: **"It may be that you hate something when it is good for you, and it may be that you love something when it is bad for you. God knows and you do not know"** (Qur'an, 2: 216)

The media reports that seemed negative at the first look became a means whereby more accurate reports were made that would prevent the dissemination of false information about Islam and present Islam in a better way. The media focused upon Muslims because of the rapid growth of the Muslim population. So, during the 1990s Islam and Muslims became one of the most important topics in the American media.

Nearly all of these reports highlighted accurately the way Muslims think and what they believe, and informed non-Muslims about Islam. They explained the daily lives and worldviews of Muslims, and gave prominence to the views of recent converts. At the same time, these reports often contained special sections on Islamic history, the fundamentals of Islam, and the Qur'an. Internet pages belonging to radio and television stations also presented the addresses of Islamic sites so that people could obtain information more easily.

This process of information accelerated as a result of the public interest after 9/11. Nearly all major newspapers began to ask whether or not terrorism was inherent to Islam and to offer comprehensive reports containing the views of academics, clergy, historians, and social scientists. As a result, the American people once again saw that Islam is a peaceful religion, and learned that their religious beliefs had many things in common with those of the Muslims.

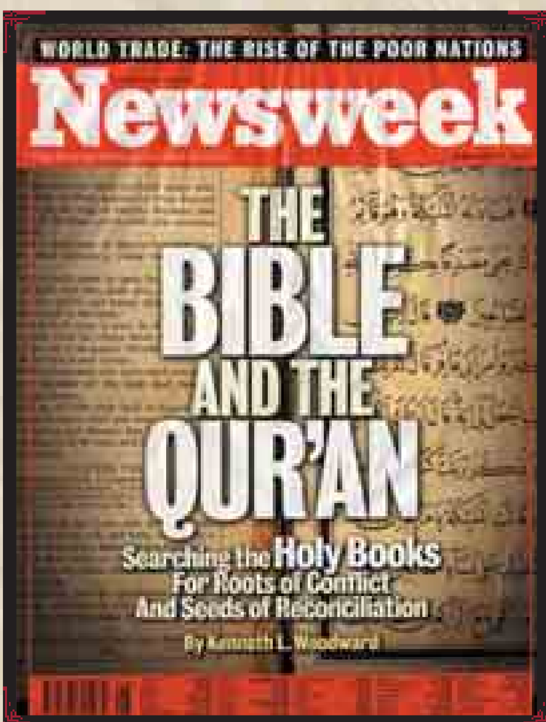
This situation certainly played an important role in the growing interest in Islam. During this time, many people who were largely ignorant of Islam and did not have easy access to accurate information could now educate themselves with relative ease.

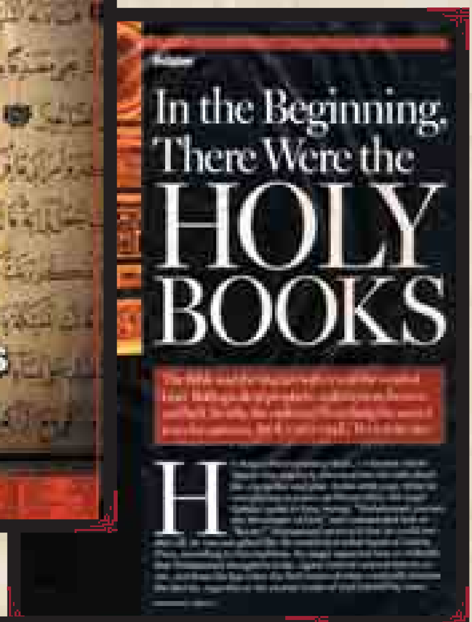
The Qur'an Has Become the Best Selling Book in America

The 9/11 tragedy caused the growth of Islam in America to accelerate greatly. One of the clearest indications of this is that after the attacks, the Qur'an became the best-selling book in many states for a long time. American interest in the Qur'an increased to such an extent that Penguin Books, one of the best-known publishers of the Qur'an in English, reported that it had printed 20,000 extra copies after 9/11.[54]

USA Today reported on this intense interest in "People Want to Know, so Koran is Bestseller," saying that sales of the Qur'an had increased by five times.[55] When asked for his view on this matter, a leading expert in Islam, John Esposito, emphasized an important point:

> The strength of the Qur'an is that a Muslim, or anyone, can open it to any page and get a message dealing with life's meaning.[56]



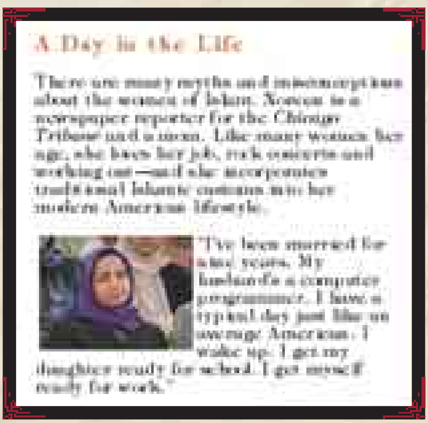


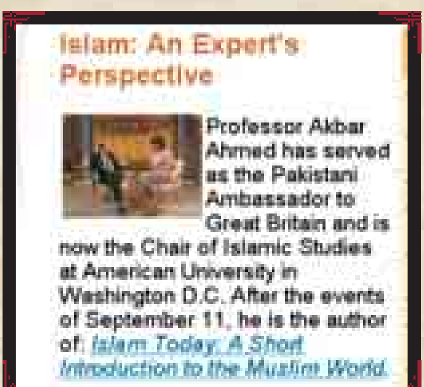
To read the Qur'an is like entering a stream. At any point one may come upon a command of God, a burst of prayer, a theological pronouncement or a description of the final judgment.

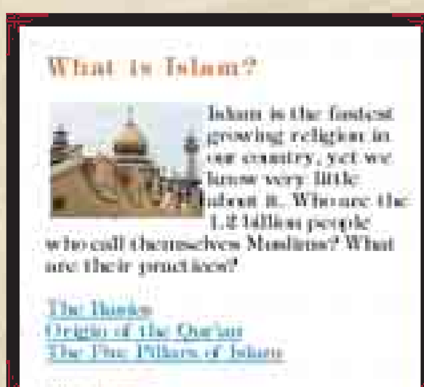
Newsweek **devoted eight pages in its February 2001 issue to an examination of the Qur'an. In the report entitled "In the Beginning There Were the Holy Books," it emphasized that God revealed each holy book and that there was no room for religious conflict. Among the issues treated were Qur'anic morality, how Muslims regard Christians and Jews, and Islam teaches people to live. The report states that when they first read the Qur'an, many Christians are surprised to see how much is written in the Qur'an about such Prophets as Jesus, David, Abraham, and Jonah, peace be upon them all, who appear in the Bible. The report also stresses that justice, mercy, and compassion are basic to the Qur'an.**



***The Oprah Show*, one of the top three American talk-shows, also discussed Islam. On October 5, 2001, there was an episode called "Islam 101." Participants included Queen Raina of Jordan; Prof. Akbar Ahmed, Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies and professor of International Relations at American University in Washington; and Maleeha Lodhi, Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States. The program's purpose was to introduce Islam to the viewers. Along with presenting their views, the program sought to show a cross-section of the daily lives of American Muslims and to help people understand Islam better. Also, the program's Internet site explained Islam's basic tenets.**







Reports and documentaries dealing with Islam on American television and in the newspapers play an important role in informing people about Islam (below). The PBS series on "Observing Islam" has attracted much interest.




ABD'de İslami siteler revaçta

In the US Islamic websites are popular

01.01.2002, Zaman

Since it was broadcast, Robert Gardner's documentary *Islam: Empire of Faith* has received a great deal of interest in America.



09.05.2001, Akşam


Amerikan TV'sinde İslamiyet belgeseli

An Islamic documentary on American TV

Internet sites about Islam have received as much interest among Americans as documentaries and television programs.

In addition to becoming a best seller, some public schools asked their students to memorize some Qur'anic verses. For example, seventh grade students in Byron, California, public school system were to take a three-week course to give them detailed information about the tenets of Islam. In this course, they were to memorize Qur'anic verses, learn about Islamic history and the life of Prophet Muhammad, and even make speeches to the class using Muslim names that they had chosen for themselves. And this program was put into effect immediately. Along with this, it was proposed that students learn how Muslims pray and what Islam's religious duties are.[57]

People in the state of Maine had a very keen interest in Islam. A few days after 9/11, there was a large increase in sales of the Qur'an and books on Islamic history. On September 22, the *Bangor Daily News* reported on the people's interest in Islam in "Mainers Studying Tenets of Islam." This article said, in part:

> As Americans struggle to come to terms with last week's events, Mainers apparently are turning to encyclopedias, history books, biographies, textbooks and the Qur'an itself to understand what the majority of Muslims believe. Gig Weeks of Book Marc's in downtown Bangor said Wednesday the store had sold all but one copy of the Qur'an…. She said several of the titles are on back order until publishers can reprint them. Staffers at Borders Books, Music and Café in Bangor reported they had sold five copies of the Qur'an since Sept. 11, compared with the two copies that had been sold between Jan. 1 and Sept. 10.[58]

The article gave further information about this interest. For example, students at Bangor Theological School, who normally study about Islam toward the end of the school year, wanted to start the course right away, and so Dana Sawyer, one of the school's teachers, started a course about the Qur'an and the Prophet's life. In this course, Sawyer said that

After 9/11 there was a much higher sale of Qur'ans



"11 Eylül'den sonra Kur'an-ı Kerim, daha çok satılıyor"

ANKARA

18.11.2001, Milli Gazete

The Qur'an is a bestseller in the US



ABD'de Kuran çok satıyor

03.10.2001, Akşam



Quran a best seller everywhere

Atlanta Journal-Constitution Staff Writer

Customers lined up outside the Borders bookstore on Cobb Parkway before it opened on the days when Time, Newsweek and other magazines' special editions on the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks went on sale.

The entire supply of books on the Middle East disappeared quickly from the Book Nook on Roswell Road in the days after Sept. 11.

And translations of the Quran, the sacred book of Islam, are suddenly a best seller everywhere.

Metro Atlanta readers are scouring bookstore shelves and magazine racks for information on a region and a religion that seemed unfamiliar -- even remote -- to many people just a month ago.

The trend is a national one -- the top nonfiction seller

For weeks after 9/11, the Qur'an was at the top of the best-seller list. In an *Atlanta Journal* report entitled "Qu'ran a best seller everywhere," well-known bookstores reported that their stocks of Islamic books were depleted and that the Qur'an was the top-selling book in almost every state.

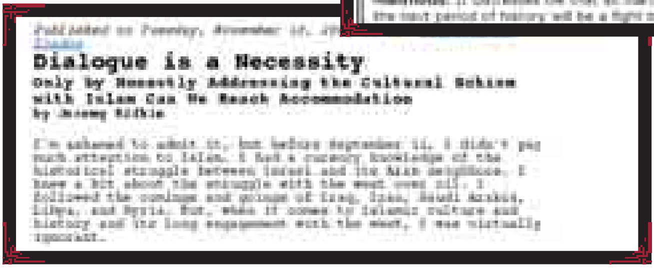
declaring all Muslims to be terrorists was the same as saying that all Christians are responsible for a crime committed by one Christian.[59] *The Guardian* featured an article by Jeremy Rifkin, the well-known American economist, in which he said that he was ashamed that he had not read anything about Islam prior to 9/11, and that now he was not the only one engaged in learning about Islam:

> I'm ashamed to admit it, but before September 11, I didn't pay much attention to Islam. I had a cursory knowledge of the historical struggle between Israel and its Arab neighbors. I knew a bit about the struggle with the west over oil.... It took the deaths of 5,000 Americans in a horrific act of terrorism to get my attention. Like so many others, I have been reading up on Islam—its tenets, internal struggles, . . . visions. . . , its similarities and deep differences with Christianity and the West...


SPECIAL

The bishop and the imam ask, Do we really have to fight?

In the "Islam and the West" section of the *Economist* magazine, a dialogue between Christians and Muslims appeared, entitled "The Bishop and the Imam ask, Do we really have to fight?"


Dialogue is a Necessity

In a *Guardian* article entitled "Dialogue Is a Necessity," Jeremy Rifkin, a well-known American economist, drew attention to the importance of knowing about Islam and understanding it properly.

A Muslim Leader Adresses A National Service of Remembrance

At a national service of commemoration held on September 14 to commemorate those who died on 9/11, President Bush invited the Muslim leader Muzammil Siddiqi to give the address. The service at the National Cathedral was attended by George Bush and Colin Powell, members of the military, bureaucrats, and relatives of those who lost their lives. In his address, Siddiqi prayed for those who died and recited Qur'anic verses.

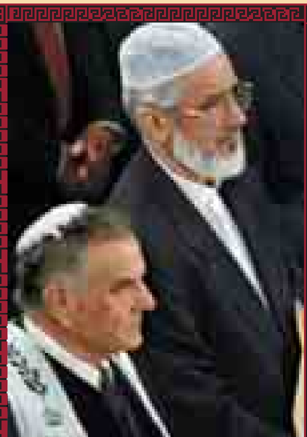


KATEDRALDE Kuran okundu

Washington'daki Ulusal Katedral'de teröre kurban gidenler için düzenlenen ayinde İslam Cemaati Başkanı Kuran'dan ayetler okudu

15.09.2001, Sabah

The Qur'an was read in a cathedral



Christians and Muslims pray together in the cathedral.





FRIDAY PRAYERS IN THE AMERICAN CONGRESS

A small mosque has been set aside for Muslims working in the Congress to perform Friday prayers. In 1998, for the first time and under the initiative of Suhail Khan, Senator Tom Campbell's press secretary, Muslims started meeting once a month for conversation. A little while later, Muslims in other government departments joined and began to hold the Friday prayers in a room convenient for this purpose. When the numbers grew too large, talking with the management of the Congress building resulted in a small room being set aside as a mosque in which Muslims could meet for conversation and Friday prayers. Now, an average of 50 to 60 Muslims meet there every Friday.[1]

1. "Muslims Holding Regular Friday Prayers in U.S. Capitol," U.S. Department of State, International Information Programs, http:usinfo.state.gov./usa/islam/a091099.htm

American Congress opens for the first time with a reading from the Qur'an





ABD Kongresi Kur'an'la açılacak

04.05.2001, Milli Gazete

The US Congress will open with a reading from the Qur'an

In 2001, another historical event occurred. Every year when Congress begins its new session, there are readings from the Bible. This year, there was a reading from the Qur'an. This was an important event for all Muslims, and no one could have guessed only a few years ago that the Qur'an would be recited in the political heart of the world's only superpower. This is an example of how much Islam has grown in America.



HERALD-MAIL Online

January 09 2002

Session opens with Muslim prayer

By LAURA ERNDE
lauraе@herald-mail.com

The Maryland House of Delegates grew quiet as Mohammed Bashar Arafat stepped to the rostrum to give the opening prayer of the 2002 Maryland General Assembly.

Arafat chanted the opening passage of the Koran in Arabic, then translated it into English for the 141 lawmakers and their guests.

House Speaker Casper R. Taylor Jr. said he invited the imam to give the prayer to show the state remains committed to religious tolerance in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Maryland State Senate opens with a reading from the Qur'an.

American official institutions teach the Qur'an



Because of the increasing numbers of Muslims in America and Islam's increasing influence in American social life, various institutions, among them the FBI, have begun to educate their employees about Islam.



FBI, İslam dersi alıyor

30.09.2001, Zaman

The FBI takes lessons about Islam



FBI İslamı öğreniyor

FBI learns about Islam

30.09.2001, Yeni Şafak

The Number Of Muslims Is Increasing In Hawaii

As in other parts of America, the number of Muslims is increasing in Hawaii. The majority of converts in Hawaii are military personnel. One of them is Heather Ramaha, who works for the navy at Pearl Harbor. Her husband is a Muslim, and she decided to convert after 9/11. Hakim Ouansafi, president of the Muslim Association of Hawaii, reported that after 9/11, there was a visible increase in the number of Muslims in Hawaii. According to him, before 9/11 only about 3 Muslims converted a month; in the two months after the attacks, 23 people converted.



TheHonoluluAdvertiser.com

Posted on: Saturday, September 15, 2001

Hawai'i Muslims on guard



TheHonoluluAdvertiser.com

Posted on: Sunday, November 11, 2001

More in Hawai'i turn to Islam

- Muslim women say head cover is liberating

Less than three weeks after terrorists struck New York City and Washington, Heather Ramaha stood among a group of women at the mosque in Manoa and recited the shahada (in Arabic):

"Ash-hadu alla ilaha illa Allah. Wa-ash-hadu anna Mohamadan rasoolu Allah."

She was testifying that "I bear no God but witness that there is Allah (one true God), and Mohammed is a prophet of God."

Reports about Muslims in Hawaii newspapers. In the report on the left, the president of the Muslim Association of Hawaii condemns the 9/11 attacks. The report on the right is about the rising conversion trend in Hawaii since 9/11.

Islam Is Spreading Among Latin American Immigrants



Latin Amerika İslam'a koşuyor

19.12.200, Yeni Şafak

Latin-America streams to Islam



Latino-İslam rüzgârı

26.12.2001, Radikal

Latino-Islamic currents

The densest wave of immigration to America is from Latin America. In many states today, Spanish and English are the majority languages. It is estimated that more than 40,000 Latin American Muslims live in Los Angeles, New York, Newark, and Chicago.[1] The public assistance programs organized by Latin American Muslims have attracted interest. For example, the Alianza Islamica, whose members are mostly from Harlem, has achieved much success in the last few years in their struggle against drugs, AIDS, and crime.



Growing number of Latino Americans turn to Islam

1. Hisham Aidi, "Olé to Allah: New York's Latino Muslims," http:www.africana.com/DailyArticles/index_19991101.htm

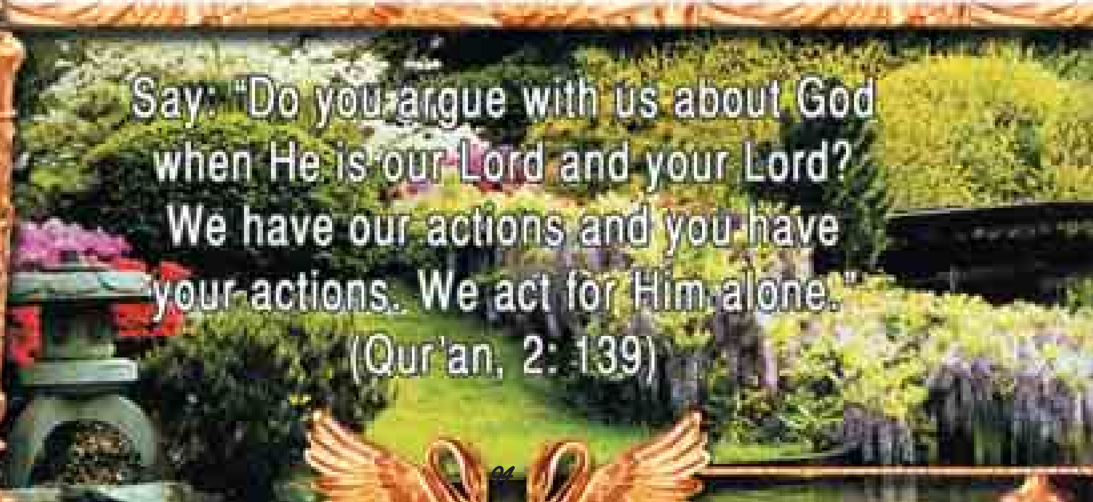
I'm not alone. Seven of the 15 lead books on the *New York Times* paperback bestseller list are devoted to Islam. The Koran has become a bestseller. The whole world, it seems, has been converted into a classroom as we try to make sense out of the tragic events of September 11 and its aftermath.[60]

The Rise Of Islam Will Continue

All of these developments indicate something striking: Islam is spreading quickly in America and gradually gaining power. The coming chapters will show how this growth is not limited to America, but how Islam is spreading everywhere in the world. These are very significant developments and, God willing, are signs of many more important developments. Therefore, these events are good news for believers and a cause for joy and excitement. In the Qur'an, God announces that true religion will indeed triumph, as in:

It is He Who sent His Messenger with guidance and the True Religion to exalt it over every other religion, though the idolaters hate it. (Qur'an, 61: 9)

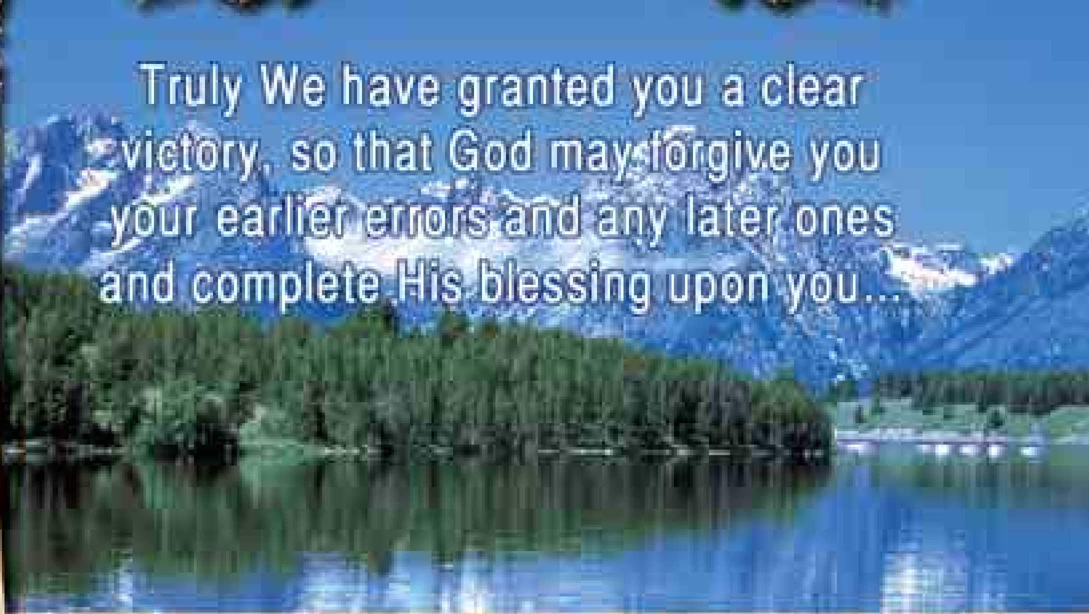
Thus, while evaluating these developments we must not forget



that all of them are promises of God. Such an attitude is important, if they are to be appreciated as they should be. Otherwise, these events will be regarded as ordinary happenings in the general flow of life and simply as the results of a few political developments. But the truth is quite different. In fact, God has determined every moment that we experience according to His Destiny for us. Where and how people approach Islam, how many Qur'ans a bookstore sells, how a state official begins to take in interest in Islam and when, where, and how this interest will be expressed are all developments that God has already determined.

Although we know that God creates a reason for every event, we must always remember that He has already determined our destiny. Given this awareness, we realize that we should thank God for the blessing of creating us to live in this time, when such important developments are taking place. We say this because every event that we experience is a step leading to greater and more important developments, and every such event announces the good news that the blessed time for which Muslims have been waiting for centuries is approaching. Our thanksgiving for this blessing must take the form of both words and deeds. In other words, we must work to quicken the spread of the Qur'an's moral teachings, struggle against any irreli-

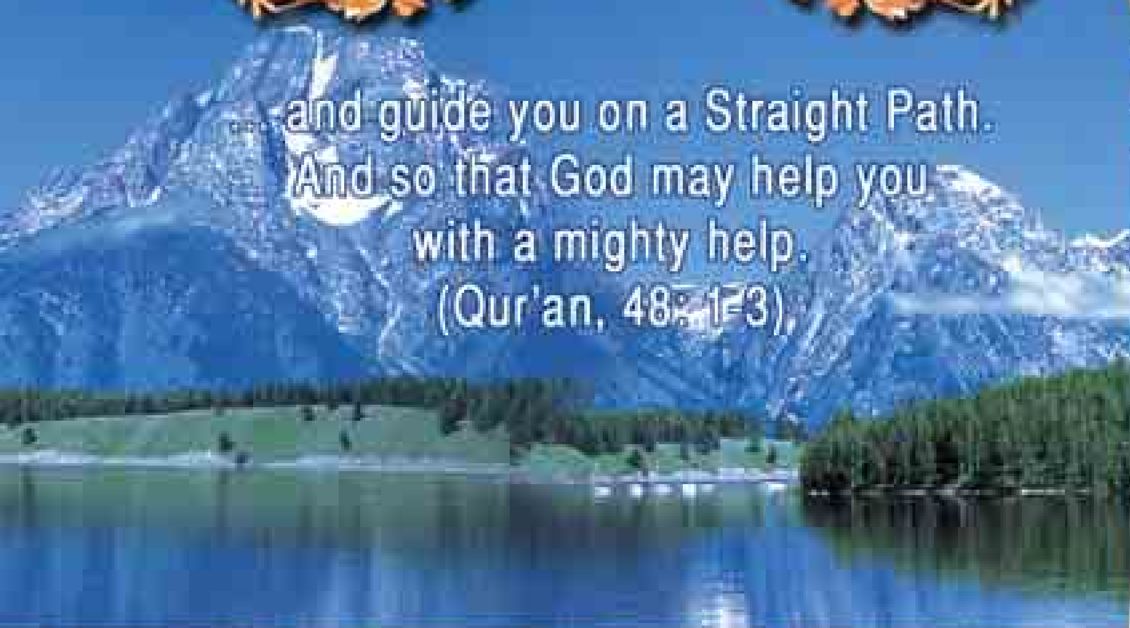




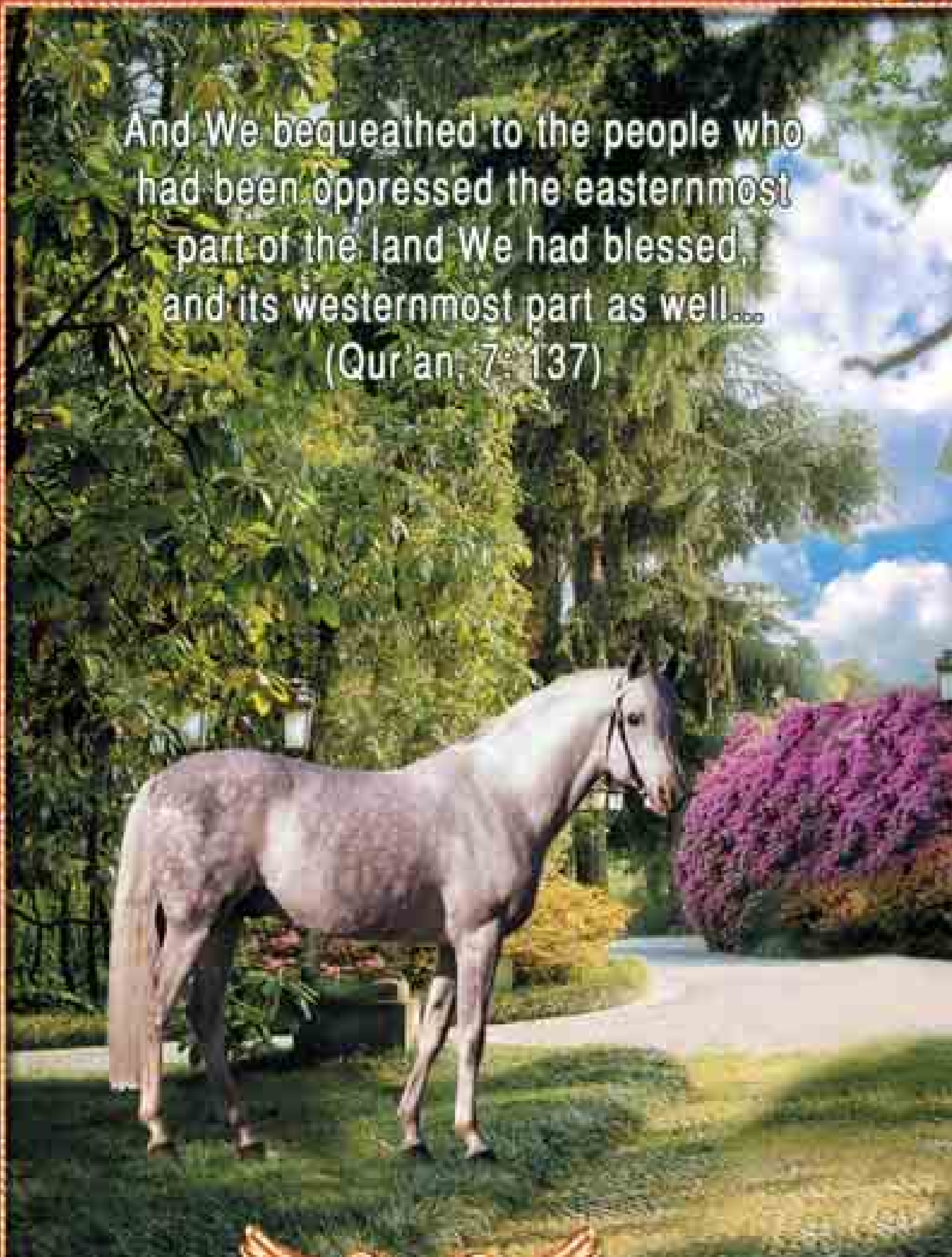
gious ideologies and ideas that impede this development, and take every opportunity to convey these teachings.

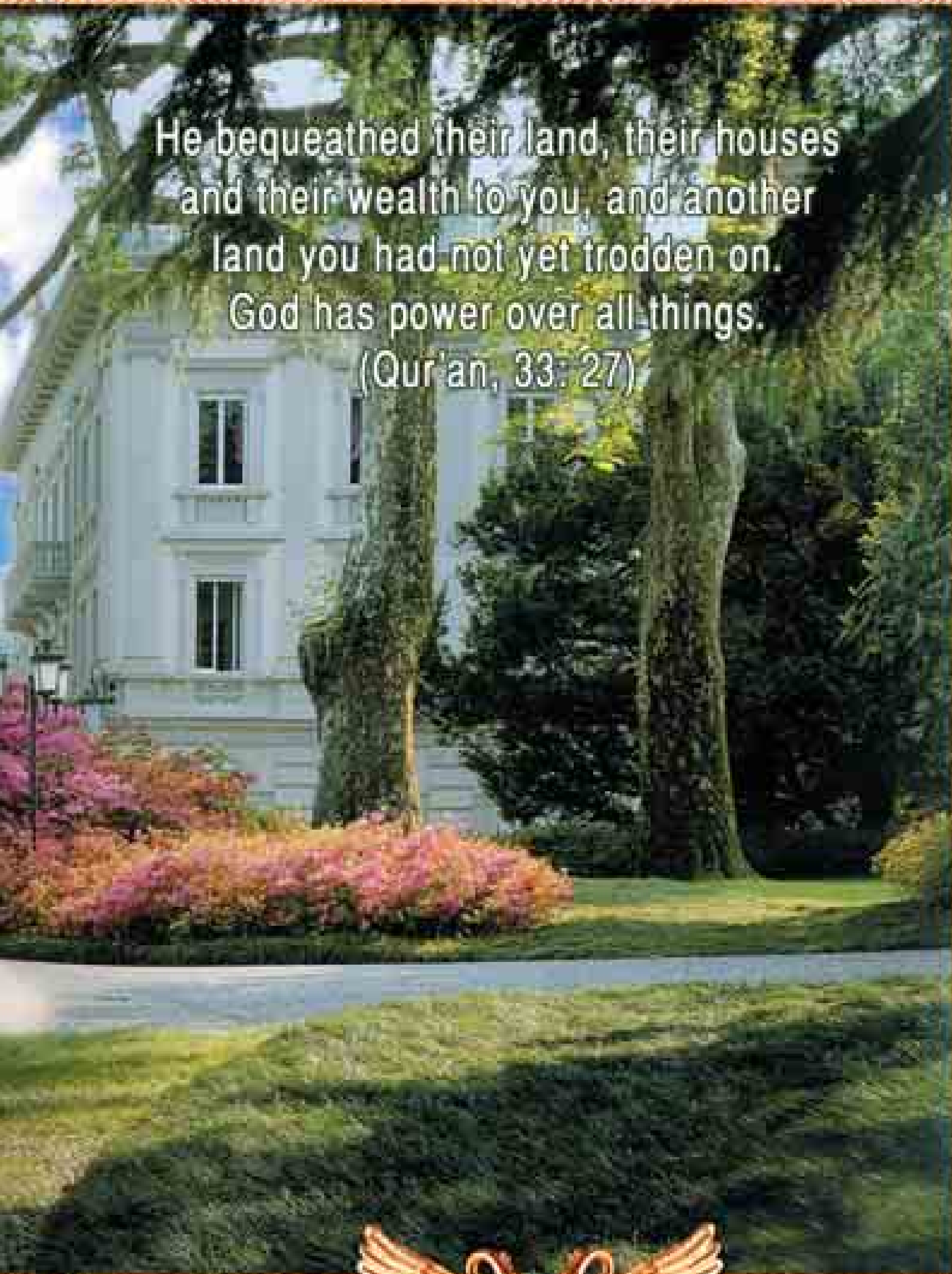
One other point also should be kept in mind: Along with this rise, Muslims could continue to face various pressures from certain quarters. However, such concerns are beyond the scope of this book. Nevertheless, they cannot make us ignore the fact of Islam's rapid growth throughout the world, the increasing interest in Islam, and the continued growth of the Muslim population. Thus we must not confuse interest in Islam, especially in the West, with the prejudiced, anti-Islam, and anti-Muslim attitudes and hostile stances observed in some circles. These two topics must be discussed separately.

Similarly, when the Western world examines Islam, it must consider the moral values of the Qur'an and those who have sincerely adopted them. If they do not, instead of making decisions



and policies that would contribute to world peace and ensure security and well-being, differences could be magnified and dialogue impaired. The basis for a dialogue between two civilizations will be established by the goodwill of believers, who conscientiously live according to the high morality that God commanded. Strengthening such a dialogue means that every viewpoint and ideology that violently agitates against peace and well-being by fomenting conflict, argument, and war will be eradicated. The fundamental support for the struggle against terror, violence, and every movement that damages world peace must be negotiation, dialogue, and a discussion at the level of ideas. This approach is the best way to prevent steps taken to bring world societies into peace and security from inadvertently harming innocent people and being used for other purposes.


And We bequeathed to the people who had been oppressed the easternmost part of the land We had blessed, and its westernmost part as well...
(Qur'an, 7: 137)


He bequeathed their land, their houses
and their wealth to you, and another
land you had not yet trodden on.
God has power over all things.
(Qur'an, 33: 27)

CHAPTER 3

EUROPE AND ISLAM

Islam: Europe's Second Largest Religion

As in the rest of the world, Islam is in the midst of a rapid growth in Europe. This development has been attracting more attention in recent years, as evidenced by the many theses, reports, and articles published on "the place of Muslims in Europe" and "dialogue between European society and Muslims." Along with these academic reports, the media has carried frequent reports about Islam and Muslims. The root of this interest lies in the continual growth of Muslim population figures in Europe, and that this increase cannot be ascribed solely to immigration. While immigration certainly has had a significant effect on the Muslim population's growth, so many researchers have addressed this matter for quite another reason: high conversion rates.

The Roman Catholic Church, headquartered in Vatican City, is one of the institutions that follows conversion trends. One of the main topics during the October 1999 meeting of the European synod, which was attended by almost all of the Catholic clergy, was the Church's position in the new millennium. The conference's main theme was the rapid growth of Islam in Europe. The *National Catholic Reporter* reported that


Economist.com EUROPE

Muslims in Europe

How restive are Europe's Muslims?

As the American and British bombing o
Muslims are increasingly nervous

The *Economist* commented on the state of Muslims living in Europe after 9/11, and reported on the current and historical relations between Europe and Islam.


LondonLife

The new face of Islam

This is London **magazine reported on the Muslim converts living in England in its article "The New Face of Islam." Some interesting information about the increasing number of Muslims is that great majority of converts are women.**


Editorial/Op-Ed

The New York Times

November 20, 2001

Islam Is Part of the West, Too

By WOLFGANG PETRITSCH

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — The Sept. 11 attack on America has sparked a debate about Islam that has, unfortunately, been framed in terms of us (the civilized, Western world) and them (t dangerous, suspect Muslims). Even well-intentioned statements dismissing the rhetoric of crusades have n softened an implicit skepticism among many people toward Islam. This wariness is of immediate concern the 12 million Muslims who are citizens of European Union countries, five million of them in the Balkans.

In a *New York Times* article entitled "Islam is Part of the West, Too," Wolfgang Petritsch, High Representative of the Bosnia-Herzegovina International Community, said it is not possible to separate Islam and the West from each other. According to him, Bosnia-Herzegovina is one of the best examples of the blending of Western and Islamic cultures.

Europe streams to Islam


Avrupa İslâma koşuyor

17.12.2000, Yeni Asya


İslâm Avrupa'da ikinci din

Islam is Europe's second religion

In the West interest in Islam is increasing


Batı da İslam'a ilgi gittikçe artıyor

18.02.2002, Milli Gazete

About 12 million Muslims live in Europe, which makes Islam its second largest religion. One of the clearest indications of Islam's rising influence there is the Muslim community's constant growth.

Islam settles in Europe


İslâm Avrupa'ya yerleşiyor

03.02.2001, Akit

Europe wams to Islam


Avrupa İslâma sıcak

30.07.2001, Yeni Asya

Islamic life gains stregnth in Europe


Avrupa'da İslâmi hayat güçleniyor

16.07.2001, Akit

some radical individuals stated that the only way to prevent Muslims' gaining power in Europe was to stop tolerating Muslims and Islam; other more objective and rational individuals underscored the fact that since the two religions believe in one God, there should be no room for any conflict or struggle between them. In one session, Archbishop Karl Lehmann of Germany stressed that there is more internal pluralism within Islam than many Christians perceive, and that the radicals' claims about Islam had no basis in truth.[61]

Considering the position of Muslims when elucidating the Church's position in the new millennium was quite proper, for a 1999 United Nations' survey showed that between 1989 and 1998, Europe's Muslim population grew by more than 100 percent.[62] Today, about 13 million Muslims live in Western Europe: 3.9 million in Germany, 3.3 million in Britain, 7.5 million in France, and the rest in other countries.[63]

Relevant research also has revealed that while the number of Muslims in Europe continues to grow, there is a deepening of religious awareness among Muslims. According to a survey conducted by the French newspaper *Le Monde* in October 2001, compared to data collected in 1994, many Muslims continue to perform their prayers, go to the mosque, and fast. This awareness is seen much more among university students.[64]

In an *Aktuel* magazine article, which was based on reports in the foreign press, Western researchers said that Europe would become one of the most important centers for the dissemination of Islam about 50 years later.[65]

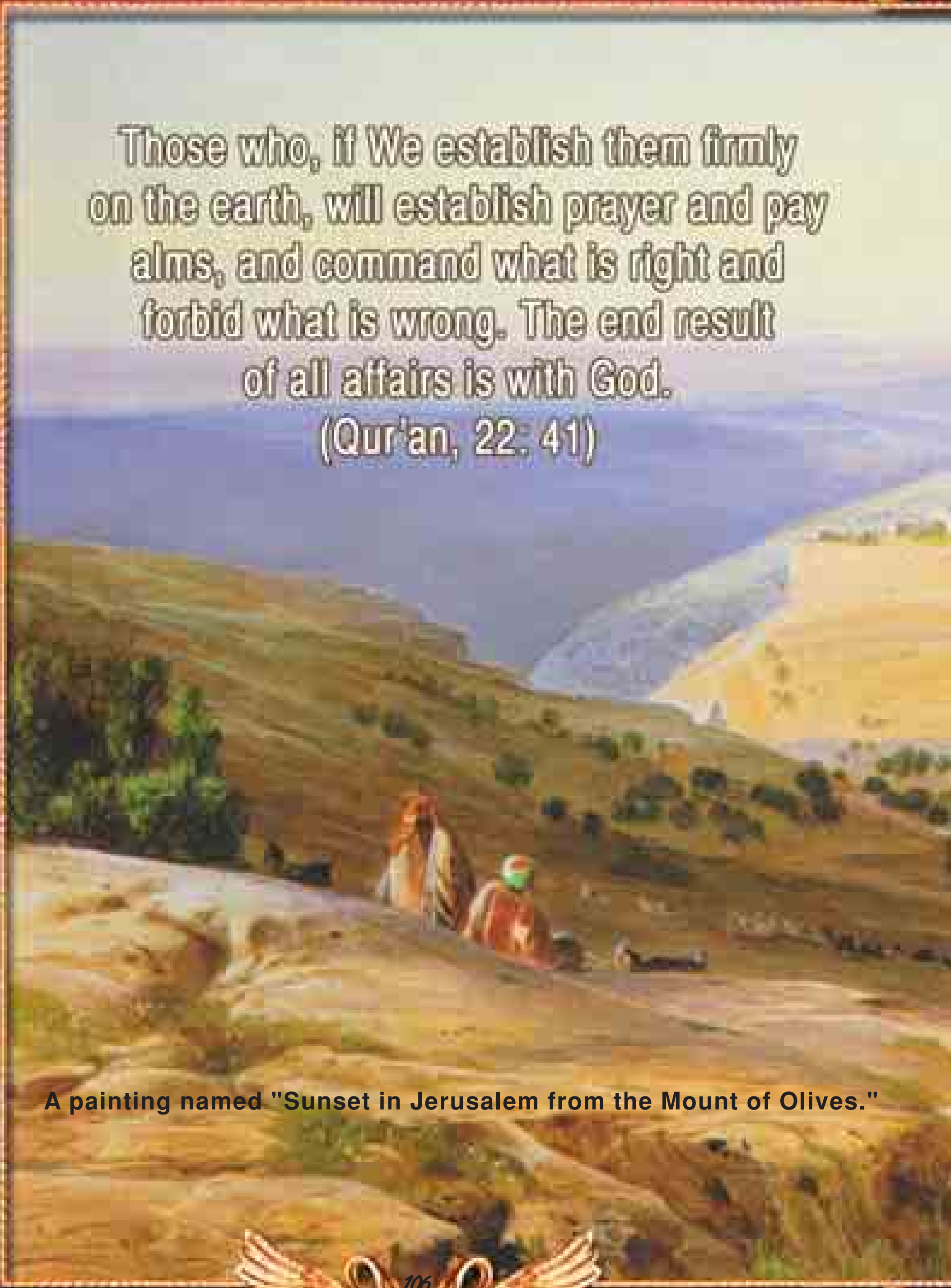
Along with this sociological and demographic research, we also must not forget that Europe has not become acquainted with Islam only recently, but that Islam is actually an inseparable part of Europe.

The History of Islam in Europe

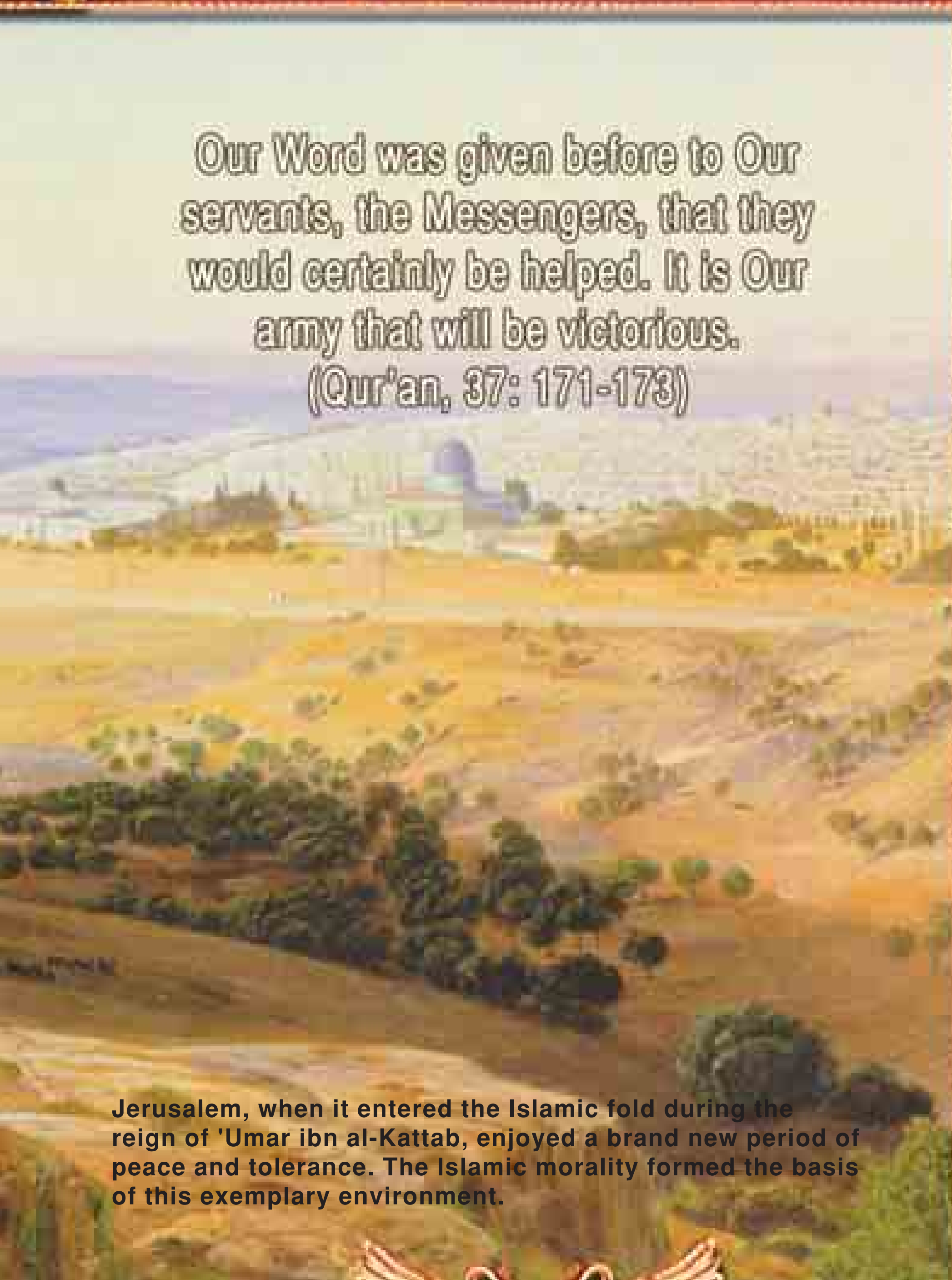
Europe and the realm of Islam have had close relations with each other for centuries. First, the state of Andalusia (756-1492) on the Iberian Peninsula, and later the Crusades (1095-1291) and the Ottoman capture of the Balkans (1389), brought about a constant interrelation between the two societies. Many historians and sociologists assert today that Islam was the leading cause of Europe's movement from the darkness of its Middle Ages to the brilliance of its Renaissance. At a time when Europe was backward in medicine, astronomy, mathematics, and many other fields, Muslims possessed a vast treasure of knowledge and great possibilities of development.

The first event that made Europeans aware of Islam's coming important place in their lives was the caliph 'Umar ibn al-Khattab's capture of Jerusalem (638). This caused Europe to realize for the first time that Islam was spreading and approaching its own borders. The main reason for the Crusades, launched four centuries later, was to take Jerusalem back from the Muslims. But the Crusaders who set out for this purpose gained something else, for the contact they made with the Muslim world was the first step toward Europe's rebirth. Dominated by darkness, conflict, war, and despotism, Europe encountered the Islamic world's advanced civilization and saw that its inhabitants were both highly prosperous and civilized, as well as quite advanced in the fields of medicine, astronomy, and mathematics as in their social lives. They also saw that values rarely found in Europe at that time (e.g., pluralism, tolerance, understanding, compassion, and self-sacrifice) were aspects of the high morality expressed by Muslims, who were aware of their religious responsibilities.

Meanwhile, as the Crusades continued, European societies also had relations with a Muslim society much closer to home: the Muslim kingdom of Andalusia, located in the southern part of their own con-



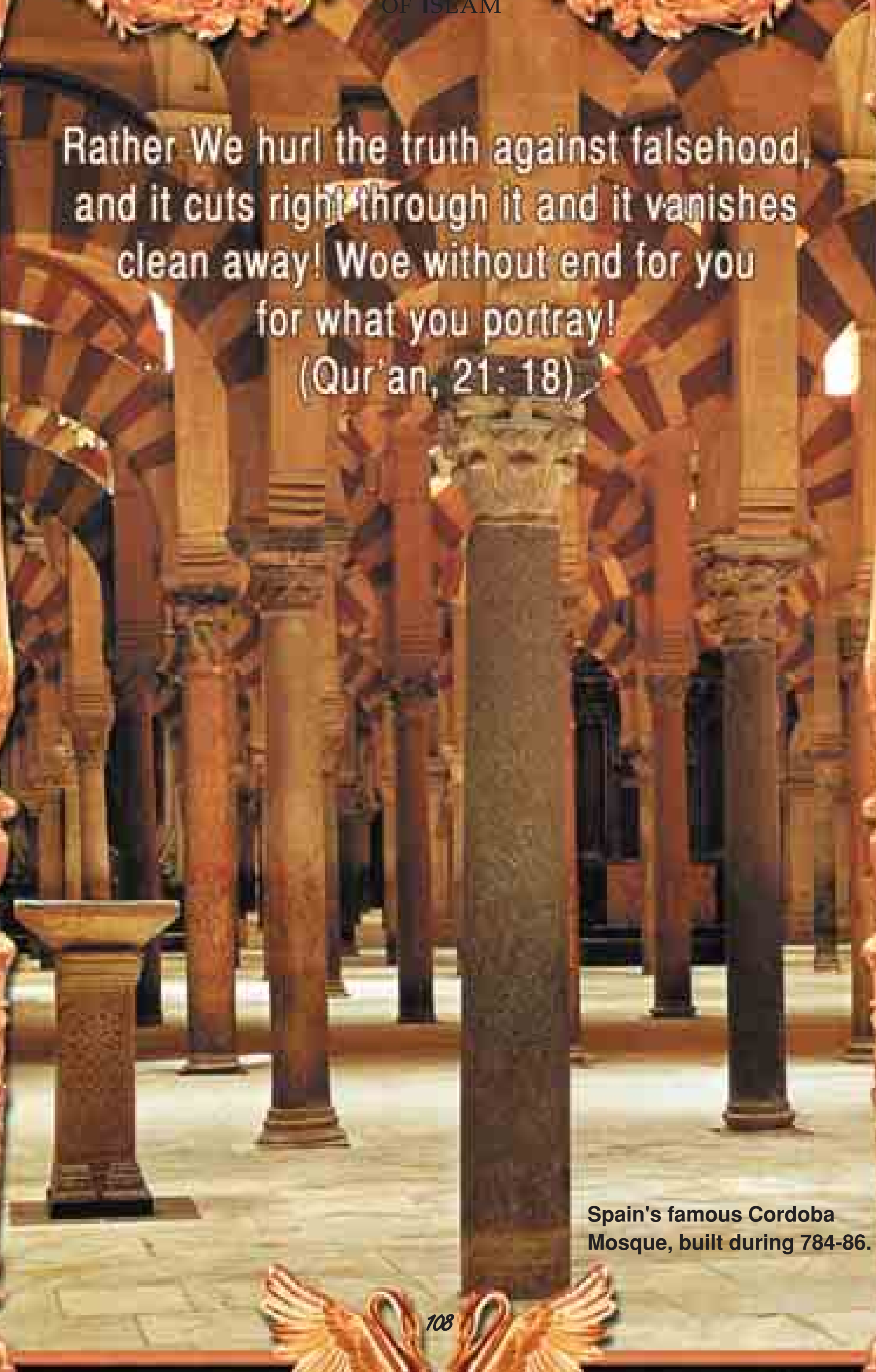
A painting named "Sunset in Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives."



Our Word was given before to Our servants, the Messengers, that they would certainly be helped. It is Our army that will be victorious.
(Qur'an, 37: 171-173)

Jerusalem, when it entered the Islamic fold during the reign of 'Umar ibn al-Kattab, enjoyed a brand new period of peace and tolerance. The Islamic morality formed the basis of this exemplary environment.

Rather We hurl the truth against falsehood,
and it cuts right through it and it vanishes
clean away! Woe without end for you
for what you portray!
(Qur'an, 21: 18)



Spain's famous Cordoba Mosque, built during 784-86.

tinent. Andalusia had a great cultural influence upon Europe until its demise in the late fifteenth century. Many historians who have studied Andalusia's influence upon Europe agree that this kingdom, with its social structure and high level of civilization, was far more advanced than the rest of Europe, and that it was one of the principle factors in the development of European civilization. The prominent Spanish historian Blanco Ibañez writes that:

> Defeat in Spain did not come from the north; the Muslim conquerors came from the south. This was much more than a victory, it was a leap of civilization. Because of this, the richest and most brilliant civilization known in Europe was born and flourished throughout the Middle Ages between the 8th and the 15th centuries. During this period northern peoples were shattered by religious wars, and while they moved about in bloodthirsty hoards, the population of Andalusia surpassed 30 million. In this number, which was high for the time, every race and religion moved freely and with equality, and the pulse of society was very lively.[66]

With its well-illuminated streets, the capital Cordoba provided a striking contrast to the European cities and according to the English historian John W. Draper, "Seven hundred years after this time, there was not so much as one public lamp in London. In Paris, centuries later, whoever stepped over his threshold on a rainy day stepped up to his ankles in mud."[67]

Andalusia finally ceased to exist in 1492 with the fall of Granada, the last Muslim kingdom on the Iberian Peninsula. But now, Europeans came face to face with the Ottoman Empire, which was beginning to advance in the Balkans during the fifteenth century as a result of several victories and mass conversions among the Balkan people. This conversion was never forced or obtained by pressure. In time, the Islamic morality put in place by the Ottomans brought those

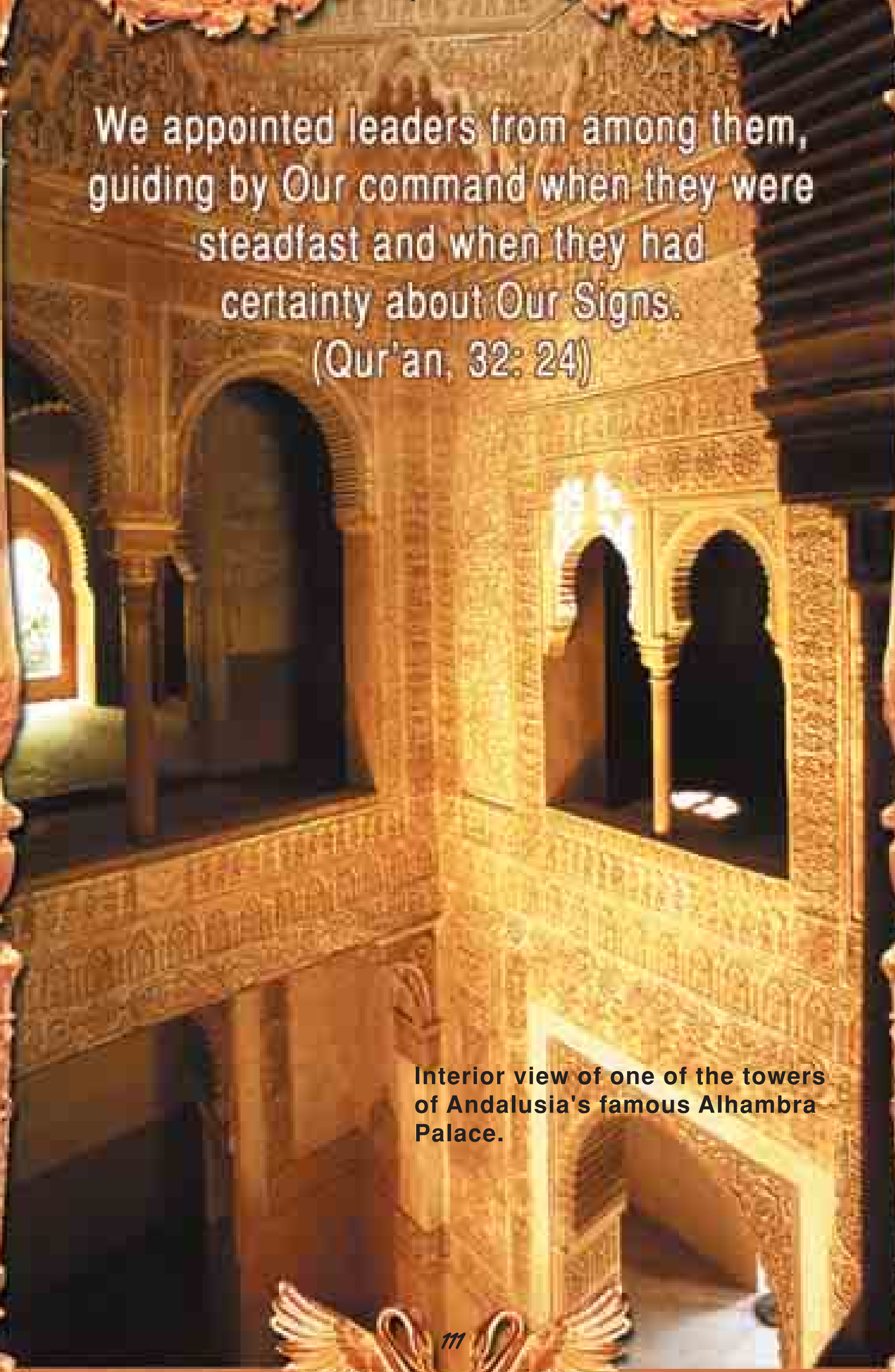


who witnessed it to choose Islam freely. Ottoman civilization, built on the Qur'anic moral values of justice, equality, tolerance, and compassion, remained in the Balkans for 400 years, and its traces can still be seen there. (A large number of these remains were destroyed by Serbian troops and missiles during the war in Bosnia, but this does not change the facts of history.) This Qur'anic-based civilization made Islam an important part of Europe. Even today, quite a large number of European Muslims live in the Balkans.

One person who believes that European civilization has learned much from Islam and that the two civilizations have always been intimately connected is Charles, Prince of Wales. Prince Charles describes Islamic civilization and what Andalusia and the Ottoman experience in the Balkans has taught Europe:

> Diplomacy, free trade, open borders, the techniques of academic research, of anthropology, etiquette, fashion, alternative medicine, hospitals, all came from this great city of cities. Mediaeval Islam was a religion of remarkable tolerance for its time, allowing Jews and Christians to practice their inherited beliefs, and setting an example which was not, unfortunately, copied for many centuries in the West. The surprise, ladies and gentlemen, is the extent to which Islam has been a part of Europe for so long, first in Spain, then in the Balkans, and the extent to which it has contributed so much towards the civilization which we all too often think of, wrongly, as entirely Western. Islam is part of our past and present, in all fields of human endeavour. It has helped to create modern Europe. It is part of our own inheritance, not a thing apart.[68]

We appointed leaders from among them, guiding by Our command when they were steadfast and when they had certainty about Our Signs.
(Qur'an, 32: 24)



Interior view of one of the towers of Andalusia's famous Alhambra Palace.

WORLDWIDE MONUMENTS OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION




Khiva
Bukhara
Samarqand
Herat
Agra
Fatehpur Sikri
Samarra
Isfahan
Jakarta
Baghdad
Damascus

The Swedish ambassador Ingmar Karlsson, known in Turkey for his book *Islam and Europe*, says that in the Andalusian period, Christians, Muslims, and Jews lived together in peace and that this should be taken as a model in Europe.

High representative for the International Community in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Wolfgang Petritsch, stresses in an article in the November 20, 2001 edition of *the New York Times* that the struggle against terror must not be directed against Islam and that it must never be forgotten that Islam is actually a part of Europe. In his article, "Islam is Part of the West, Too," he states: "When we step beyond the us-and-them paradigm, we might remember that Islam is part of the European tradition."[69] Keeping this historical fact in mind is one way to prevent the chaos desired by those provocateurs who put forward the "clash of civilizations" thesis. Differences in civilization are not reasons for conflict; rather, they can be an important means of advancing dialogue.

European Leaders and Islam

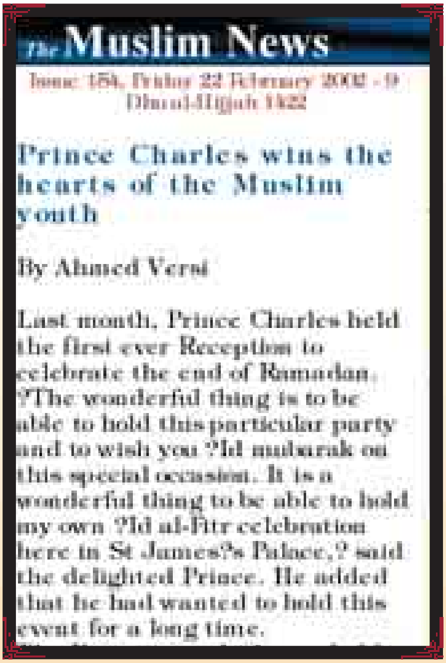
European leaders have considered two facts very carefully: There will be no conflict between Islam and Christianity, and Islam has not allied itself with terrorism. Most European governmental leaders and prominent politicians have sent messages commending Islam and expressing their interest in its moral teachings.

As mentioned above, Prince Charles has a close connection with Islam. He first expressed this at Oxford in 1993. Since that time, he has had close relations with Muslims living in England and has attended many meetings and openings organized by Muslims. He also has expressed his admiration for Islam many times. At Wilson Park in 1996, he made his admiration for Islam clear, as well as the reasons

for it. Stressing the following points, he stated:

> I feel that we in the West could be helped to rediscover the roots of our own understanding by an appreciation of the Islamic tradition's deep respect for the timeless traditions of the natural order.... Modern materialism is unbalanced and increasingly damaging in its long-term consequences.... But during the past three centuries, in the Western world at least, a dangerous division has occurred in the way we perceive the world around us. Science has tried to assume a monopoly, even a tyranny, over our understanding. Religion and science have become separated... We are only now beginning to gauge the disastrous results... Science has done the inestimable service of showing us a world much more complex than we ever imagined. But in its modern, materialist, one-dimensional form, it cannot explain everything.... This [materialist] view is quite contrary, for example, to the outlook of the Muslim craftsman or artist, who is never concerned with display for its own sake, nor with progressing ever forward in his own ingenuity, but is content to submit a man's craft to God. That outlook reflects, I believe, the memorable passage in the Koran: "whithersoever you turn there is the face of God and God is all-Embracing, all-Knowing".... There are many ways in which mutual understanding and appreciation can be built. Perhaps, for instance, we could begin by having more Muslim teachers in British schools, or by encouraging exchanges of teachers. Everywhere in the world people want to learn English. But in the West, in turn, we need to be taught by Islamic teachers how to learn with our hearts, as well as our heads.[70]

Through the Prince Foundation, Prince Charles has sought to benefit Muslims. The Oxford Islamic Research Center, which began its activities in 1993, was founded with his sponsorship. The Visual Islamic and Traditional Arts department, which carries on its activities in conjunction with his foundation, works to provide, among



The Muslim News

Issue: 154, Friday 22 February 2002 - 9 Dhu al-Hijjah 1422

Prince Charles wins the hearts of the Muslim youth

By Ahmed Versi

Last month, Prince Charles held the first ever Reception to celebrate the end of Ramadan. ?The wonderful thing is to be able to hold this particular party and to wish you ?Id mubarak on this special occasion. It is a wonderful thing to be able to hold my own ?Id al-Fitr celebration here in St James?s Palace,? said the delighted Prince. He added that he had wanted to hold this event for a long time.

A report in the *Muslim News* relates Prince Charles' conversation with some Muslim young people whom he had received at Buckingham Palace.



BBC NEWS

Prince joins Ramadan ceremony

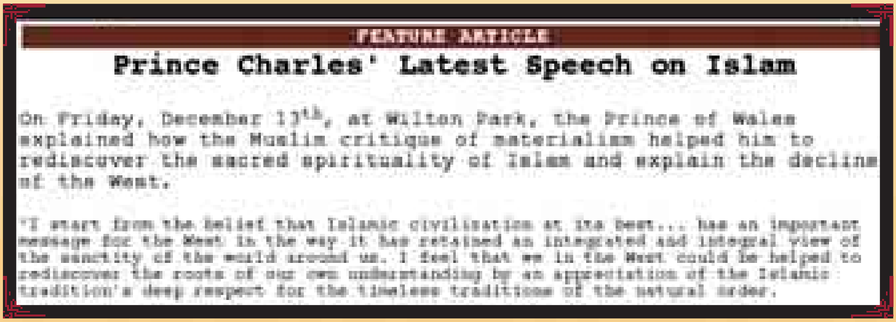
The Prince of Wales is joining more than 100 British Muslims in a breaking fast ceremony as part of Ramadan.

The prince will visit the East London Mosque on Friday for the ceremony, which takes place every day at sundown during the important Islamic month.

He will also launch the £10m London Muslim Centre Project, which will be built next to the mosque and will provide community and educational facilities.

It has been designed by the Visual Islamic and Traditional Arts (VITA) department at The Prince's Foundation - which concentrates on urban regeneration and heritage projects.

The BBC reported, in "Prince joins Ramadan Ceremony." that Prince Charles visited a mosque and some Islamic schools in East London during Ramadan.



FEATURE ARTICLE

Prince Charles' Latest Speech on Islam

On Friday, December 13th, at Wilton Park, the Prince of Wales explained how the Muslim critique of materialism helped him to rediscover the sacred spirituality of Islam and explain the decline of the West.

"I start from the belief that Islamic civilisation at its best... has an important message for the West in the way it has retained an integrated and integral view of the sanctity of the world around us. I feel that we in the West could be helped to rediscover the roots of our own understanding by an appreciation of the Islamic tradition's deep respect for the timeless traditions of the natural order.

In address at Wilton Park, the prince criticized materialism and said that Islam gave the best answer to the materialist point of view.

Commonsense Prince



29.09.2001, Star

The Prince visited a mosque



29.09.2001, Zaman



30.07.2001, Gözcü

The prince won the hearts of Muslims

Price Charles: I won't have Islam belittled



29.09.2001, Milliyet

Prince Charles has a good relationship with Muslims living in England, and often meets with them and listens to their problems.

He often says that he is as much impressed by Islamic morality as he is by Islamic art. One of the most evident examples of this is the "Islamic garden" that he had constructed based completely on Islamic works of art.



29.07.2001, Muslim News

other things, the sociological and economic means to support the traditions and cultures of British Muslims, cover the costs of education for Muslim children, and establish interreligious dialogue. Lately, through this section, the prince raised 10 million pounds for the Muslim Centre Project to be established in London.[71]

Prince Charles is especially concerned with educating Muslim youth. In 2001, for the first time he invited Muslims to attend a Ramadan celebration in Buckingham Palace, and there expressed his thoughts on this matter to specially invited Muslim young people. The event was reported in *The Muslim News* in the following words:

> He welcomed the "greater sensitivity and imagination" offered by Muslim youth, because without that "we will become so much more dry and sterile." Prince Charles acknowledged the diversity of the Muslim youth present: "You make up what I can only describe as a very rich tapestry that makes an enormous difference to the diversity and richness of our country. One of the things I have always tried to get across, which is not always easy, is that in a world which is increasingly secular, increasingly materialistic, it is absolutely essential for all those who believe and have faith in something greater than ourselves in something beyond the purely material, are remembered and celebrated."[72]

During this reception, he chatted with individual young Muslims about their needs for more than an hour, asking them if they encountered any difficulties in their education, careers, and the practice of Islam. Among other things, the prince was especially curious about whether young people understood the spirit of the Qur'an, if they had read it from cover to cover, if they had encountered any difficulties at school during Ramadan, and whether they were happy with the food offered by their schools for the iftar meal.[73]

The interest shown by Prince Charles is certainly highly important. The change in the thinking of prominent statesmen on this mat-

ter is a huge step toward eradicating the false opinion that certain circles in the West have been trying to create about Islam. Clearly, a society whose leaders realize the beauty and superiority of Islamic morality will be able to approach Islam far more easily, and Muslims living in that society will enjoy more peaceful lives. For this reason, it is an important responsibility to ensure that prominent people receive accurate information about Islam. People familiar with Islam and its moral teachings, no matter what their position, certainly will share their impressions with others. If they are among the leaders of that particular society, both those who direct society and who address the masses will benefit from these impressions.

Therefore, when you read these descriptions, realize the extraordinary nature of these developments. In the Western

We will leave you the land to live in after them. That is the reward of those who fear My station and fear My threat.
(Qur'an, 14: 14)

world today, there is a growing rapprochement with Islam. Certainly this is good news for Muslims who work to show the proofs of God's Existence and Unity, defeat the prevailing materialist ideologies, and communicate true religion to others. Believers also are responsible for relating this good news to all Muslims.

Those Who Turn To Islam

As stated above, the sympathy that leaders feel for Islam deeply affects the desire of people to approach Islam. One indication of this is the number of Europeans who, over the last few years, have converted to Islam. Research shows that these new converts are not uneducated; rather, most of them have a university education and a career.

The April 30, 2001, edition of *The Daily Telegraph* published information about the turn to Islam, especially in England. While interviewing converts, the following picture emerged: Most of them have status in society, have strong family connections, and chose Islam after considerable research and study. For example, Joe Ahmed-Dobson, son of the former Minister of Health, was 16 years old when a friend gave him a copy of the Qur'an as a gift. In it, he says, he found the answers to all his questions. He officially accepted Islam at the age of 23, and was supported by his family in this decision. Apparently, his father gives him Islamic books as Christmas presents every year. Among recent converts in England are people like the son of John Birt, the former general director of BBC, and the daughter of Lord Justice Scott, a prominent judge. Over the past 20 years, an estimated 20,000 people in England have converted and, as in many other countries, the movement toward Islam has accelerated. According to the Manchester Mosque, after the events of 9/11, six-

Muslims in England

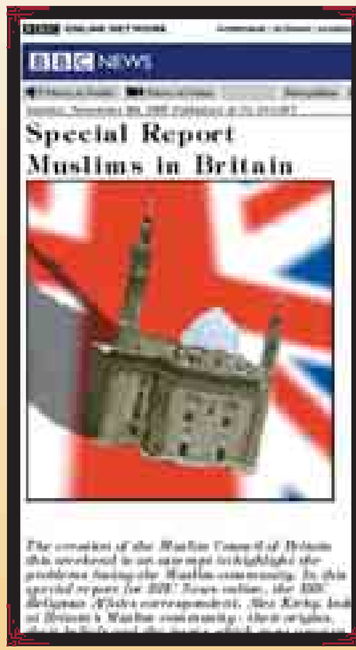
England has one of the densest Muslim populations. The English press often reports on Muslim issues. One of these special reports, "Special Report: Muslims in Britain," was posted on the BBC's Internet site. The *Telegraph* carried an article, "My dad buys me books about Islam,"on how English people accepted Islam.



Kraliçe ilk kez camide

22.04.2002, Türkiye

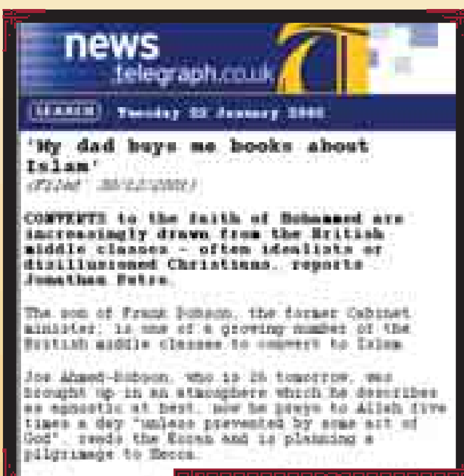
The Queen's first time in a mosque



BBC NEWS

Special Report

Muslims in Britain



news telegraph.co.uk

'My dad buys me books about Islam'

CONVERTS to the faith of Mohammed are increasingly drawn from the British middle classes - often idealists or disillusioned Christians, reports Jonathan Petre.

Women form the great majority of English converts.



İngiliz kadınlar İslâm'a koşuyor

English women stream to Islam

14.07.2001, Milli Gazete

teen individuals accepted Islam there alone. One of the interesting things revealed by such research on converts is that far more women are turning to Islam. In America, one in four converts is a woman; in England, the figure is one in two.[74]

Islam also is growing rapidly in Denmark. After the official Protestant religion comes Islam, and the number of Catholics is slightly less than the number of Muslims. Of the 5.5 million Danes, 3% are Muslims.[75] This growth in the number of Muslims is the result of high immigration. This increase was discussed in the Danish press in a report entitled "The Future of Denmark: Every Second Person is a Muslim." Research done by the well-known sociologist Eyvind Vesselbo, who lives in Denmark, shows that the number of Muslims in Denmark will increase considerably in the near future.[76]

Reports of Islam in The Media

Interestingly, the number of objective reports in the Western media introducing Islam has increased. Especially after the 9/11 attacks, people were curious about Islam and were seeking accurate information. In response, the media produced various reports and programs. The BBC broadcast documentary films about Islam on many television channels, invited special guests to appear on talk-shows, and produced a program series introducing Islam. Furthermore, many television stations added special sections about Islam on their Internet pages to provide information about Islam's basic requirements, history, sayings of the Prophet, and Qur'anic verses. Web sites that provide more comprehensive information also are provided.

In addition, many magazines and newspapers contain articles about Islam to answer people's questions. For example, the October 1, 2001, edition of *Time* magazine carried an article by Karen Armstrong entitled "True, Peaceful Face of Islam," which provides the following information:

> The very word *Islam*, which means "surrender," is related to the Arabic *salam*, or peace. When the Prophet Muhammad brought the inspired scripture known as the Koran to the Arabs in the early 7th century A.D., a major part of his mission was devoted precisely to bringing an end to the kind of mass slaughter we witnessed in New York City and Washington.... In the Koran, therefore, the only permissible war is one of self-defense. Muslims may not begin hostilities (2:190). Warfare is always evil, but sometimes you have to fight in order to avoid ... persecution.... The Koran quotes the Torah, the Jewish scriptures, which permits people to retaliate eye for eye, tooth for tooth, but like the Gospels, the Koran suggests that it is meritorious to forgo revenge in a spirit of charity (5:45).... Islam is not addicted to war ... The primary meaning of the word jihad is not "holy war" but "struggle".... In a statement in which the Arabic is extremely emphatic, the Koran insists, "There must be no coercion in matters of faith!" (2:256). Constantly Muslims are enjoined to respect Jews and Christians, the "People of the Book," who worship the same God (29:46). In words quoted by Muhammad in one of his last public sermons, God tells all human beings, "O people! We have formed you into nations and tribes so that you may know one another" (49: 13)—not to conquer, convert, subjugate, revile, or slaughter, but to reach out toward others with intelligence and understanding.[77]


Muslim Europe

29.05.1995, Newsweek

The awakening of Islam in Europe


Avrupa'da İslam'ın uyanışı

12.10.2001, Milliyet

Islam, a sun that has shone for 1,000 years


US News & World Report'un araştırması:

1000 yılın parlayan güneşi İSLAMİYET

11.08.1999, Türkiye

This article in *Newsweek* examines Islam in Europe and reports that Islam is constantly gaining influence in such countries as Italy, England, and France. For example, in East London, where chapels go empty, mosques open to take their place. In France, many buildings have been converted into mosques and are filled to overflowing by devout Muslims. Minarets rise in Madrid, and a grand mosque is being built in Italy.

Islam is spreading


İslamiyet yayılıyor

Amerikalılar dünyanın din haritasını çıkardı. Haritaya göre, Hıristiyanlığın kalesi olan Avrupa'da, yüzyıl içinde Müslüman sayısı iki kat arttı

YÜZYILDA SAYI İKİYE KATLANDI

14.03.2001, Sabah

Islam is the number one religion in Europe


İslamiyet Avrupa'da 1. din

15.03.2001, Ortadoğu


Batının İslâm merakı

26.10.2001, Milliyet

The West is curious about Islam

Islam on Arte TV

More Europeans are converting to Islam than ever before, and many documentaries about Islam have been shown on European television since 9/11.


İslamiyet Arte TV'de

» Alman-Fransız kanalı, Peygamberimiz ile ilgili geniş bir belgesel hazırladı...

Çekimler 3 yılda yapıldı

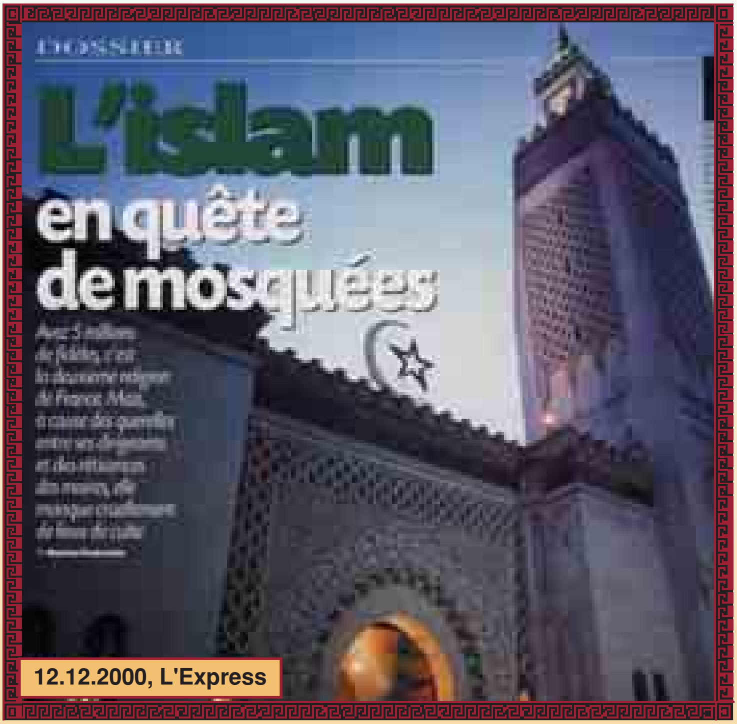
30.01.2002, Türkiye


29.01.2002, Zaman

11 Eylül sonrası Avrupalının İslam merakı!

Curiosity about Islam in Europe after 9/ 11

Islam In France



12.12.2000, L'Express



12.12.2000, L'Express

Today, approximately 5% of the French population is Muslim. Islam, now France's second largest religion, is attracting the attention of the French media.

Preparations Have Begun To Make Islam An Offical Religion In Sweden


İsveç'te İslam resmi din

11.02.2001, Yeni Şafak

Islam is an official religion in Sweden


İSVEÇ BAŞKONSOLOSU: İSLAM AVRUPA DİNİ

13.03.2002, Yeni Şafak

The ambassador of Sweden to Istanbul: Islam is a European religion

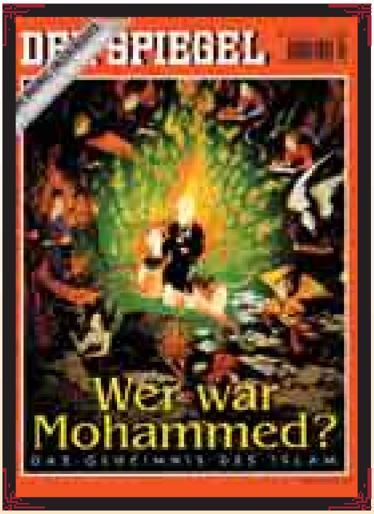

TIME

Crossing Cultures at Stockholm's House of Faith

Time magazine reported on the opening of Sweden's largest mosque in Stockholm.

Research shows that there are more than 300,000 Muslims in Sweden, whose total population is about 10 million, and the government and people are very accepting of them. Last year, the government made a special allocation of funds to translate the Qur'an into Swedish for them and to build a big mosque where they can worship comfortably. Along with these projects, another fund has been established to support schools that provide Islamic education. In addition, there is now an initiative to make Islam an officially recognized religion.

The Rise of Islam Is the Cover Story in Der Spiegel





Hazreti Muhammed Der Spiegel'e kapak oldu

03.06.2001, Hürriyet

The Prophet Muhammad on the cover of Der Spiegel

02.06.2001, Der Spiegel



Islam's rapid rise throughout the world was the cover story of the well-known German magazine, *Der Spiegel*. This issue contained a 20-page report entitled "Who was the Prophet Mohammed?" and pointed out that true Islam had nothing to do with terrorism. It also presented the views of various historians, philosophers, sociologists, and politicians. The report states that no religion is spreading as fast as Islam, and quotes the words of prominent English philosopher Ernest Gellner: "Islam is the blueprint of a social order. It holds that a set of rules exists, eternal, divinely ordained, and independent of the will of men, which defines the proper ordering of society."

Television Documentaries Present Islam



İslam İngiliz televizyonunda

Islam on English television

13.08.2001, Milli Gazete

Much interest in the documentary about Prophet Muhammad (saas)



Hz. Muhammed (sas) belgeseline büyük ilgi

14.03.2002, Zaman

Islam's rapid rise has been the topic of many television programs. In addition to concentrating on political and social issues, they also provide comprehensive documentaries on Islamic history and moral teachings. One example is the English project called the "The BBC Two's Islam Season," which was prepared as a 2-week series. Costing 1 million pounds to produce, it was to present the truth about Islam. A similar program was broadcast on the French-German channel: Arte. This documentary series, which took 3 years to produce, presents a detailed account of the Prophet's life and Islamic history.

The German President Visits A Mosque



18.12.2001, Takvim

The German president in a mosque

German president Johannes Rau, an avid supporter of interfaith dialogue, expressed himself on this matter at a meeting of the World Council of Churches in Potsdam on January 29-30, 2001. The Council declared the next 10 years to be the "Decade to Overcome Violence." Rau stated that this was one of Europe's most important social initiatives. He stated further that freedom and justice were equally important, and that Social Darwinism had to be definitely rejected.[1] Moreover, Rau showed the importance he placed on establishing dialogue by his visit to the Fatih Mosque in Marl. During this visit, arranged for the Ramadan Eid, he stated that Muslim holidays were as important as Christian ones, and that the struggle against terror was not related to Islam.



08.04.2002, Yeni Asya

German president Rau: West Islam dialogue is necessary

1. Notes on Church-State Affairs, vol, 43, Autumn 2001, no.2


İslâm, Almanya'daki hayatın bir parçası

Islam, a part of life in Germany

18.03.2002, Yeni Asya


Avrupa doğru İslâmı arıyor

Europe seeks for true Islam

02.01.2002, Yeni Asya


Alman Müslümanlar

08.11.2001, Akşam

German Muslims

The number of German converts is also high. Germany, which has a dense Muslim population, has undertaken various initiatives to provide a better understanding and correct presentation of Islam. Among these efforts are the lessons in Islam, which will be given in German schools.

The Growth Of Islam in Belgium


Belçika'nın en büyük camii ibadete açıldı

28.01.2002, Zaman

Belgium's largest mosque opens


Belçika'da Müslümanların sayısı 450 bine ulaştı

BRÜKSEL

İslam dinini 1974 yılında resmen tanıyan Belçika'da 450 bin Müslüman bulunduğu bildirildi. Resmi olmayan istatistiklere göre, bu sayının üçte ikisi Faslılardan, geri kalanı Türk, Cezayirli, Tunuslu, Pakistanlı, Arnavut ve diğer bazı yabancı asıllılardan oluşuyor. Ülkede 300 cami bulunduğunu belirten yetkililer, bu camilerin devlet tara...

17.01.2002, Vakit

In Belgium the number of Muslims has reached 450,000

At the beginning of the 1990s, Belgium had about 285,000 Muslims; by 1998, there were 350,000 Muslims. This is 2.5% of the Belgian population. There are now 240 places of Islamic worship in Belgium, and Islam continues to grow rapidly.[1] Today, Belgium has more Muslims than Protestants and Jews, and is the second largest religious community after Catholicism. The Belgian government has always been well-disposed toward Belgian Muslims and, as early as 1974, passed a law to protect their freedom of belief and worship. According to this law, Muslims are as free as Catholics, Protestants, and Jews to practice and teach their religion. One of its most important provisions deals with teaching Islam in state schools. At present, Belgium has about 700 Muslim teachers in state schools. They receive salaries and expenses from the government. The Belgian government also covers the cost of building worship centers and hiring clergy. This support allows Islam to spread, and is indicated by the opening of the Genk Yunus Emre Mosque on January 28, 2002. Mayor Jef Gabriels, who attended the opening, considered this day a holiday, and the vicar Jan Boonen expressed his thoughts as follows: "There's a house, people live in it; there's a house, a hospital is being built; there's a house, a bank is being built. But this house is a different house. This is God's house, and we come here only to bow down to him."[2]

1. Prof. Herman De Ley, "Muslims in Belgium: Enemies from within or fellow Citizens," http://isim.leidenuniv.nl/newsletter/1/forum/01AE35.html
2. *Zaman*, Metin Keskin, January 28, 2001

An Italian Ambassador Becomes A Muslim


Monday November 26 12:50 PM ET

Rome's Envoy to Saudi Arabia Converts to Islam

By Luke Baker

ROME (Reuters) - Italy's ambassador to Saudi Arabia has converted to Islam, the second time in seven years that an envoy of Rome to the land of Mecca has adopted its religion.

Torquato Cardilli, a career diplomat from overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Italy, revealed his decision to Saudi newspapers Saturday, his 50th birthday. Italian diplomatic sources confirmed the announcement Monday.

His official conversion was made on the eve of the Islamic holy fasting month of Ramadan, which began on November 16 in Saudi Arabia. Cardilli

The Italian ambassador became Muslim


İtalyan büyükelçi müslüman oldu

İTALYA'nın Suudi Arabistan Büyükelçisi Torquato Cardelli, eylül ayında "Batı, İslam'dan üstündür" diyerek infial yaratan Başbakanı Silvio Berlusconi'ye nanire yaparcasına müslüman oldu.

İyi derecede

26.100.2001, Hürriyet

The Western press and news agencies were attracted by Torquato Cardilli's, Italian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, conversion to Islam. Above we see a Reuters' report entitled "Rome's Envoy to Saudi Arabia Converts to Islam."

Actually, Torquoato Cardilli was the second ambassador who converted to Islam. Before him, Ambassador Mario Scialoja also had converted to Islam. Having converted when he was Rome's permanent ambassador to the United Nations, Scialoja was later appointed ambassador to Saudi Arabia.
Cardilli had spent many years in Muslim countries, and his conversion shows once again the rapid growth of Islam in Italy. About 1 million Muslims live in Italy and in the last two or three years about 5,000 people have converted.[1]

1. Reuters, November 26, 2001



İTALYA'DA CUMA

Bu fotoğraflar önceki gün İtalya'nın Milano ve Torino kentlerinde çekildi. Cuma namazında buluşan Müslümanlar, camilere sığmadı, caddelere ve meydanlara taştı.

MILANO

TORINO

21.10.2001, Star

Friday Prayer in Italy



Getting to know Rome's Muslims

Silke Buhr

With over 700,000 Muslims in Italy, Islam is the country's second religion. Rome is home to 70,000 of them, and it also has Europe's biggest mosque. During the holy month of Ramadan (this year until 15 December), a time of prayer and contemplation for Muslims, who must fast from dusk to dawn, it becomes a focal point for the community.

The mosque in the north of Rome is a special

Above we see Europe's largest mosque: the mosque in Rome

Islam In Denmark

27.04.2002, Sabah



Danimarka TV'sinde naklen Cuma namazı

KOPENHAG'DAKİ Türk Kültür Merkezi Camii'nde kılınan Cuma namazı ve hutbesi Danimarka devlet televizyonundan kesintisiz olarak yayınlandı...

MÜSLÜMANLAR'A ÇAĞRI

NAMAZI kıldıran Danimarkalı İmam Petersen cemaatle önce 'Allah için cep telefonunuzu kapatın' dedi. Hutbesinde de

İMAM PETERSEN 16 YIL ÖNCE RAHİPTİ

Friday prayers broadcast on TV in Denmark

12.10.2001, Milliyet



Danimarka yakında Müslüman olacak

Danimarkalı bir uzmanın yaptığı hesaba göre, 2060 yılında Danimarka nüfusunun yarısı Müslümanlardan oluşacak...

Soon Denmark will be Muslim

Islam is the fastest growing religion in Denmark. This growth is fostered by the warm relations with the Danish government. One of the most striking instances of this support was an historical first: Danish state television broadcast a Friday sermon delivered in the mosque of the Turkish Cultural Center.

Islam In The Educational System In Europe

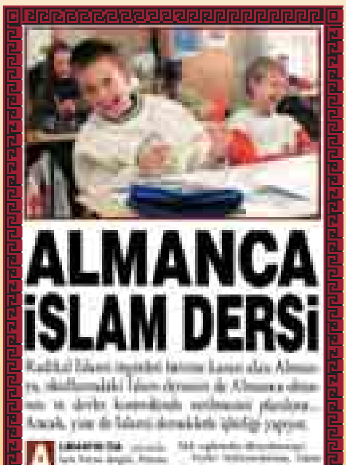


In Sweden guides to Islam will be distribnuted free to students



İsveç'te öğrencilere ücretsiz İslam rehberi dağıtılacak

14.04.2002, Milli Gazete



ALMANCA İSLAM DERSİ

16.12.2001, Star

Islamic lesson in German



International

The New York Times

March 30, 2001

Austrian School Drama: Crucifix Meets Ramadan

Above: A *New York Times*' article entitled "Austrian School Drama: Crucifix Meets Ramadan," reports on the Muslims' education rights in Austrian schools. In Europe's many Islamic schools, the state curriculum includes courses introducing Islam. Certainly, this initiative will be the most effective way to combat radicalism and the foundation stone in any dialogue established between the two cultures.



It is He Who sent His Messenger
with the Guidance and the True Religion
to exalt it over every other religion
and God suffices as a witness.
(Qur'an, 48: 28)

CHAPTER 4

ISLAM IS GROWING IN RUSSIA AND CHINA, TOO

Muslims in Russia

The disappearance of the communist system at the beginning of the 1990s ushered in a new period for Russia. The communist system, founded upon materialist philosophy, established a social order based upon the view that human beings were no more than matter and claims that the human conscience is the product of matter in motion. According to this claim, human intelligence, thought, feelings, judgments, tendencies, and will are the result of chemical reactions within the body, which is a kind of machine. Therefore Marxism, which is an interpretation of materialism, views all human culture, civilization, religion, concepts of government, law, family, and morality as dependent upon material factors. According to Marx, all of these things arise from differences in the manner of their production and change over time.

In rejecting religion's values and espousing such thinking, materialism is in serious error. People are not only material creatures, for each one of them has a spirit that is not, as materialists claim, a product of matter. On the contrary, what we call "material creatures" are the things seen, heard, and sensed by spirit. It is impossible to define the workings of the human spirit in terms of material conditions. God created it and inspired special qualities in it, and every individual lives his or her life according to these special qualities. In the Qur'an, God commands:

He Who has created all things in the best possible way. He commenced the creation of man from clay; then produced his seed from an extract of base fluid; then formed him and breathed His Spirit into him and gave you hearing, sight, and hearts. What little thanks you show! (Qur'an, 32:7-9)

Under its communist government, Russia adopted this materialist bias and made it the base of its social life and social order. The communist regime, which viewed human beings as tools of production and believed that Social Darwinism could be applicable to human relationships, left behind immense destruction in its wake, for Social Darwinism came out of Charles Darwin's unscientific theory of evolution, which proposes that human beings are developed animals whose relationships could be governed by the same laws that govern animals. In this order, from which faith in God and religious morality were removed, such basic human needs as love, respect, compassion, mercy, self-sacrifice, loyalty, and fidelity had no place. So a herd-psychology developed. People lived uneasily and in constant fear. They lost the human qualities of love, compassion, and mercy, and committed every kind of crime in the belief that they would not be punished.

But God turned this society toward true religion. Russia's spiritual collapse and moral degeneration later became the means by which human beings, as a society, would approach religion and spirituality. Years ago, the Islamic scholar Bediuzzaman Said Nursi announced the good news to Muslims that they would become powerful in Russia, and that the Russian people would come to Islam. Shortly after Russia's 1917 revolution, Said Nursi who was captured by Russian soldiers, said that communism would one day collapse and that Islam would spread throughout Russia. In a conversation with a Russian soldier, he said: "Three lights will be re-

vealed one after another in the Islamic world of Asia. Three shadows from your side on top of each other will be revealed. The despotic curtain will be torn and puckered, and I will come and build my school here." With these words, he indicated the advantages that Muslims would have in Russia. Elsewhere, he said:

> As a result of two dreadful world wars, with the total awakening of the people, a nation without religion cannot survive. Russia cannot live without religion. They cannot also go back to Christianity. They can be at the most dependent on the Qur'an that breaks the unbelief and that is based on right and truth and that convinces the heart.

As Said Nursi said, the Russian people have grasped that there cannot be a nation without religion, and this understanding has guided them to the true religion of Islam. Today, 20 million Muslims live in Russia—roughly 15% of the population. The majority of them are not immigrants or foreign residents, but people who have lived there for more than 1,000 years. Under communism, mosques were closed and turned into warehouses, religious officials were arrested and sent into exile, and great pressure was exerted on Muslims to abandon their religion. Now there is a great current of people approaching Islam, one that cannot be ignored. The founding of the Russian Islamic University in 1998, the county's first Islamic university, and the increase in the number of mosques in Tataristan from 18 in the Soviet period to more than 1,000 today, are examples of the rise of Islam in Russia.[78]

These are only two examples, and there is no doubt that they are very good and important developments. In Russia, the birthplace of communism, the voice of Islam is being heard and, God willing, this growth will become more rapid.

Russia turns to religion



Rusya dine dönüyor

28.12.2001, Yeni Şafak

The growing turn to religion in Russia

Rusya'da dine artan yöneliş

06.01.2001, Zaman



Rus gençler, şimdi İNANÇ arayışında

10.12.1999, Akit

Russian youth now in search of faith

After the spiritual collapse caused by communism, the Russian people became aware that real salvation was possible only through religion.

Islam is Growing in Russia and China, too

International

November 9, 2001

Shackles Off, Russia's Muslims Are Still Chafing

By AMY WALDMAN

KAZAN, Russia, Nov. 5 ? Summoned by a familiar, plaintive call, young men dazed from studying stumble from their dorm ro
with slippers on their feet and prayer on t
minds.

From 20 regions of Russia and bordering n
they have made their way to an institution
very name was unthinkable a decade ago
Russian Islamic University.

(Left) The *New York Times* reports on the opening of the Russian Islamic University in an article entitled "Shackles Off, Russia's Muslims are Still Chafing."

Newsday.com

Islam On The Rise

Russian Muslims debate form
should take

By Liam Pleven
RUSSIA CORRESPONDENT

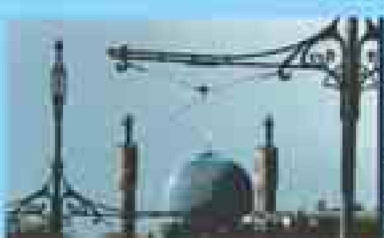
April 21, 2002

Penza, Russia

THE red-and-white brick minaret that rises above the banks of the Sura River here is only 2 years old and as modest as the mosque below, which is being restored in a wood-frame building that had been converted into communal apartments during Soviet times.

(right) In an article entitled "Islam on the Rise," *Newsday* reports that dozens of new mosques have been opened in Moscow, and that there is great interest in special courses on Islam. The Internet site below contains a historical account of Russia's famous St. Petersburg mosque.

Saint-Petersburg Mosque



Crowded Eid prayers in Moscow



Moskova'da bayram namazı izdihamı

23.02.2001, Milliyet



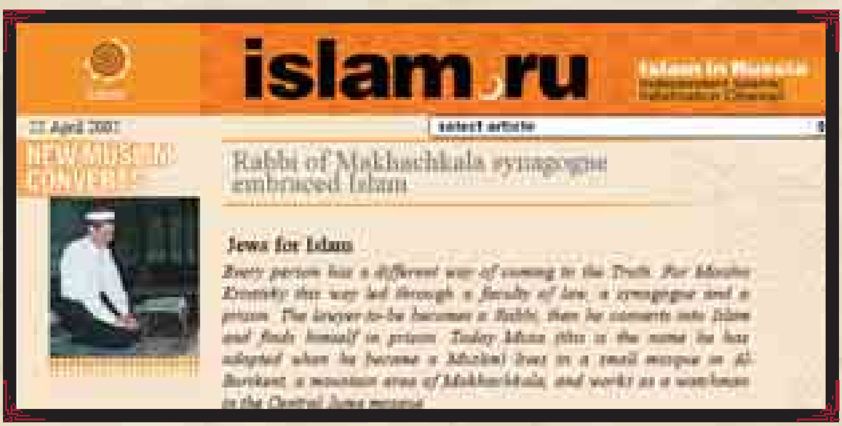
BBC NEWS

Moscow courts its million Muslims

Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov attended a service at the city's main mosque to mark Eid al-Adha, the Muslim feast of sacrifice, on Monday and promised to help provide more facilities for Moscow's million-strong Muslims

He urged Muscovites to embrace religious tolerance, a

The growth of Islam in Russia attracts the West's interest and, from time to time, there are articles about it. In a report entitled "Moscow Courts Its Million Muslims," the BBC follows the visit of Moscow's mayor Yuriy Luzhkov to a mosque on the Ramadan Eid. A photograph shows him standing beside the mosque's imam. Today in Russia, where just 20 years ago people could not admit that they were religious, the interest of the Russian people in religion is indeed a significant development.



islam.ru

select article

Rabbi of Makhachkala synagogue embraced Islam

Jews for Islam

Every person has a different way of coming to the Truth. For Moshe Krivitsky this way led through a faculty of law, a synagogue and a prison. The lawyer-to-be becomes a Rabbi, then he converts into Islam and finds himself in prison. Today Musa (this is the name he has adopted when he became a Muslim) lives in a small mosque in Al-Burkent, a mountain area of Makhachkala, and works as a watchman in the Central Juma mosque.

This report about Russians turning to Islam mentions the conversion of a former rabbi.

Islam in China

Until now, we have discussed the growth of movement toward Islam after the fall of communism. The situation is a little different in China, one of the last bastions of communism. Here, Islam is on the rise, but because Mao's Red ideology is still in effect, opposition toward religion is continuing apace. Religious figures are still being arrested and tortured, places of worship are being closed, and people are not free to worship or practice their faith. In the small mosques and places of prayer where the state permits worship, strict discipline is enforced by the police and the military. For example, in Eastern Turkestan (Xinjiang), Muslims cannot perform their prayers in their preferred mosques or remain in the mosque as long as they want. If they work in a state office, they cannot fast or perform their prayers. Those Muslims who go to the mosque are closely watched by secret police agents. Muslims under the age of 18 cannot receive a religious education, and if the government discovers that they have started to study the Qur'an, no matter how old they are, they are arrested and their families are penalized. But this official policy of pressure and violence does not prevent people from turning to religion.

Despite the strict implementation of these measures, as the Asian edition of *Time* magazine reports, religion in China is growing:

> Despite China's efforts to restrict religious expression, however, the spiritual awakening of its citizens isn't about to dissipate. Although the ruling Communist Party remains officially atheist, the collapse of Maoist ideology created a vacuum that religion is helping to fill.[79]

However much the communist regime in China may contest these figures, about 200 million Muslims live there. Despite everything, the number of those who perform acts of worship has increased.[80]


Çin, dinini arıyor

30.09.1999, Yeni Şafak

China seeks its religion


BBC NEWS

China's Islamic concerns

(right) A report entitled "China's Islamic Concerns" tells about Beijing's uneasiness over Islam's growth. In April 2001, Beijing decided to establish the Chinese Islamic Union with 16 clergy on the board of directors. In this way, China hopes to keep an eye on every kind of Islamic activity.

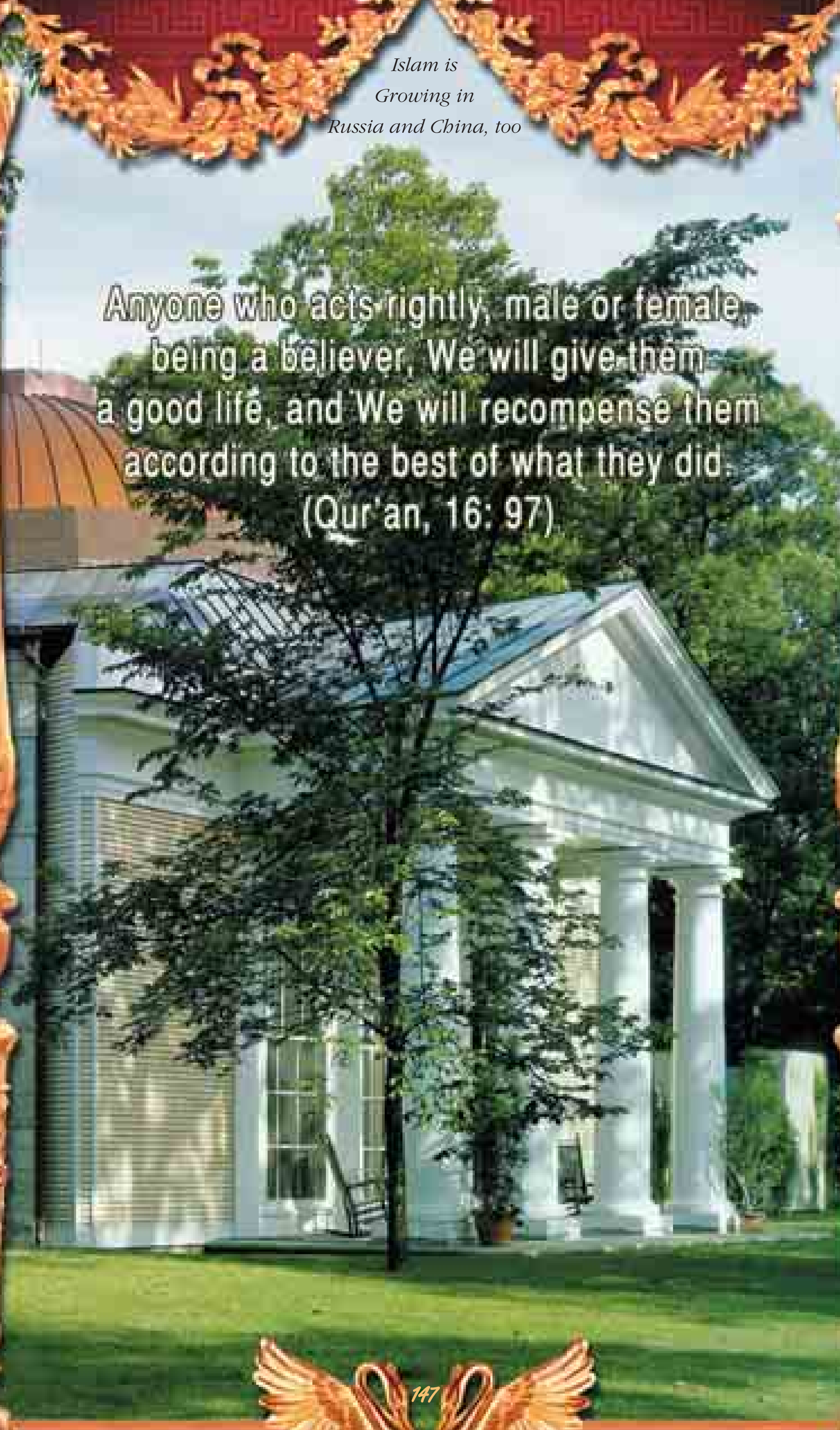

BBC NEWS

China's fearful Muslim minority

By the BBC's Lucy Ash



A BBC report entitled "China's fearful Muslim minority" spoke about Beijing's oppression of the Uighur Muslims. Especially after 9/11, China increased pressure on its Muslims using the struggle against terrorism as a pretext, trying in this way to cover up its human rights violations. This tactic did not escape the attention of Western human rights organizations, and the BBC report focused on these violations. (For more detailed information, see Harun Yahya's *Communist China's Policy of Oppression in East Turkestan*.)



Anyone who acts rightly, male or female, being a believer, We will give them a good life, and We will recompense them according to the best of what they did. (Qur'an, 16: 97)

CHAPTER 5

THE RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN MUSLIMS, CHRISTIANS AND JEWS

The growth of Islam is also reflected in the recent growth of interfaith dialogue. These dialogues start by stating that the three monotheistic religions have a common beginning and can come together at a common point. Such dialogues have been quite successful and have engendered an important rapprochement, especially between Christians and Muslims. In the Qur'an, God informs us that Muslims invite the People of the Book (Christians and Jews) to unite on a common ground:

> **Say: "O People of the Book, come to a proposition that is the same for us and you—that we should worship none but God, and not associate any partners with Him, and not take one another as lords besides God." If they turn away, say: "Bear witness that we are Muslims." (Qur'an, 3: 64)**

The three monotheistic religions have common beliefs and the same moral values. Belief in God's Existence and Unity, angels, Prophets, the Last Day, Heaven and Hell are their basic tenets of faith. Furthermore, self-sacrifice, humility, love, tolerance, respect, mercy, honesty, avoiding wrongdoing and injustice, and acting according to conscience are all commonly accepted moral qualities. Therefore, since these three religions are on the same level, they must work together to eradicate the strife, conflict, and pain caused by irreligious ideologies. When considered



Intercultural dialogue

What form could meaningful dialogue between the Western and Islamic worlds take? How can we surmount our feelings of alienation and fear when confronted with cultures which are strange to us?
Jochen Hippler, political scientist and publicist on the need for a dialogue of the cultures

Related Web Sites

Relations between Western countries and the Islamic world have become more difficult since the terrorist attacks

A report entitled "Intercultural Dialogue" in *Deutschland* magazine gives an account of interfaith dialogue in Germany. These efforts are supported by President Rau.



NEWS

FASTRACK HOME NEWS

THE NEED FOR UNDERSTANDING AND TOLERANCE BETWEEN ISLAM AND THE WEST

THURSDAY 15 NOV

ARTICLE BY HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES, IN THE TELEGRAPH NEWSPAPER, THURSDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2001

In a speech I made in Oxford some eight years ago, I spoke of the dangers of ignorance and misunderstanding between the Islamic world and the West, and of the need for these two worlds to understand better the beliefs and values which can bind us together more powerfully than they need divide us.

(above) In an article in the *Telegraph* entitled "The Need for Understanding and Tolerance between Islam and the West," Prince Charles stressed the importance of interfaith dialogue.

The Pope often speaks about the brotherhood among religions and the importance of dialogue. The Vatican is making efforts in this regard. A report in the *Detroit News*, entitled "Pope urges religious tolerance," includes statements by the Pope on this matter (right).



Pope urges religious tolerance

John Paul II again stresses peaceful coexistence between faiths

By Judith Ingram / Associated Press

ASTANA, Kazakhstan -- Pope John Paul II called on Catholics today to rebuild the Catholic Church in post-Communist central Asia, but cautioned against aggressive proselytizing in a land of many faiths.

At a mass in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, the pope delivered a homily in Polish and German, the languages spoken by most of the region's clergy -- and the languages of Catholics exiled here in the Soviet era.

John Paul, who witnessed communist domination in his native Poland, recalled the exiles' suffering and the leadership of church martyrs who perished in the Stalinist prison camps of Kazakhstan. He expressed deep thanks to the clergy working to breathe new life into the church, which was suppressed during 70 years of Soviet rule.

John Paul, 81, appeared tired, and his hands trembled more than usual. He suffers from symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

Pope John Paul II greets a girl in traditional dress during an open mass celebrated in Kazakhstan on Sunday. "With all my heart, I beg God to keep the world in peace," the pontiff said.



The Qur'an's values suggest that people from every religion should live together in harmony and peace.

from this point of view, interfaith dialogue assumes far more importance. The seminars and conferences that bring representatives of these religions together, and the messages of peace and brotherhood that come out of them, have continued regularly since the mid-1990s.

These initiatives have increased since 9/11. After these attacks, various members of the Christian clergy were among the most important advocates of Islam, saying that there is no terror or violence in Islam, and that it is a religion of peace, justice, and tolerance. The Pope, spiritual leader of Roman Catholics, and many other prominent members of the clergy said that Islam and Muslims cannot be held responsible for these attacks. Moreover, not content with this, they asked forgiveness on behalf of those people who held Muslims responsible and tried to harm Muslims.

The Pope Asked Christians to Fast

One notable interfaith moment occurred when the Pope invited Christians to fast with Muslims on the last Friday of Ramadan. A report issued by the Vatican said:

> The Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, has declared December 14th to be a day of fasting, a prayer, and charity throughout the world, begging for peace, as he indicated in his Angelus message of November 18, 2001: "Each of us who goes without by fasting will be taking on the disposition of the poor, especially those who suffer at present the consequences of terrorism and war."[81]

This request was immediately put into effect, and on Friday, December 14, prominent Christian leaders visited mosques for Friday prayers and prayed with Muslims. One of these people was the Cardinal Archbishop of Detroit. In his Friday speech at one of Detroit's largest mosques, the Cardinal said:

> I thank you for the gracious invitation to share these sacred hours of Ramadan with you and the congregation. I am especially pleased to be with you on this Friday, December 14, as the Catholic Church throughout the world unites itself in solidarity with Muslim believers everywhere in special prayer, fasting, and almsgiving for world peace and for the healing of all who suffer the effects of war and terrorism. . . The events of September 11 remind us that not only have technology and economy become global, but insecurities, fears, violence, injustice, and war have also become global! As the Pope has explained, what we need now is a response of what he calls "globalized charity" .... In the name of all the Catholics of metro Detroit, I offer my apologies and sympathy for any way in which members of our Church have ever offended you by remarks or attitudes of prejudice, anger, or violence.[82]

At services on the following Sunday, Muslims prayed for all those who had been affected by terror and war. Perhaps for the first

time in history, many Christian services began with a reading from the Qur'an. In a Detroit church this prayer was said:

> Let us lift our minds and hearts to God as we pray for all those who have died because of terrorism; may the Lord grant healing and peace to their families… We ask that the Lord rekindle within us hope for a new beginning as one human family. May we together receive and share God's forgiveness and mercy. To the merciful and almighty, the creator of heaven and earth, we submit ourselves in all humility and gratitude.[83]

Afterwards, before the reading of the Gospel, Surat al-Fatiha was recited to the congregation. This certainly was an extraordinary occasion, and a sign that a very important period has begun. This rapprochement is an important stage of the spread of religious morality throughout the world.

The last Friday of Ramadan 2001, Pope John Paul II declared December 14th to be a day of fasting, prayer, and charity throughout the world.


Papa'dan dünyaya
'ORUÇ ÇAĞRISI'

12.12.2001, Hürriyet

An appeal to the world from the Pope to fast


Bütün dünya
oruç tutacak

Papa 2. Jean Paul'ün önerisiyle "Evrensel Oruç Günü" ilan edilen14 Aralık etkinliğine, Türkiye'deki Hıristiyanlar da katılacak. Türkiye Ermenileri de Ramazan'ın son cuması olan 14 Aralık'ı, "Oruç ve Dua Günü" kabul etti

13.12.2001, Akşam

The whole world will hold a fast

A Meeting in Brussels on "The Peace of God in the World"


Brüksel Bildirgesi: Aşırılıklar hiçbir dini temsil etmez

22.12.2001, Zaman

Brussels declaration: Extremists do not reflect any religion

A December 2001 meeting in Brussels, organized by Romano Prodi, president of the European Commission, and the Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomeos was attended by more than 80 members of the clergy. Participants expressed that it is absolutely essential for the three religions to work together for world peace. The final report began with this sentence: "The will of God is for the peace of heaven to reign on earth." The following words also are of interest: "We unanimously reject the assumption that religion contributes to an inevitable clash of civilizations. On the contrary we affirm the constructive and instructive role of religion in the dialogue among civilizations."[1]

1. http://www.orthodoxa.org/patriarcat/documents/BrusselsDeclaration.htm

A Joint Statement of the German Clergy



In a meeting held in Germany's Fatih Mosque, representatives of the three religions prayed for those who lost their lives on 9/11. The message delivered was that religious morality deplores terror, and that peace can be established only when people live their lives according to religious morality.

More than 200 Religious Leaders Gathered at Assisi

12 different religious representatives pray for peace in Rome

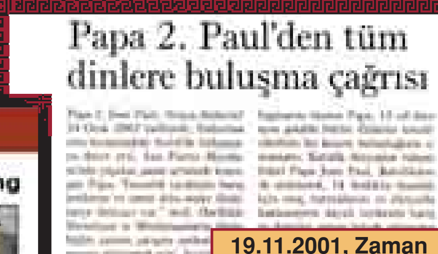

12 farklı dinin temsilcisi Roma'da barış için dua etti

25.01.2002, Zaman

Religious leaders will pray for world peace


Dini liderler dünya barışı için dua edecek

24.01.2002, Zaman


Papa 2. Paul'den tüm dinlere buluşma çağrısı

19.11.2001, Zaman

An appeal from John Paul II for all religions to meet


BBC NEWS

Pope calls Assisi peace meeting

By David Willey in Rome

Pope John Paul II has called on leaders of the world's religions, and particularly upon Christians and Muslims, to travel to central Italy in January to pray for peace

The BBC provided general information about the meeting in a report called "Pope calls Assisi peace meeting."

On the Pope's invitation, as many as 200 religious leaders gathered in the Italian city of Assisi and prayed for world peace. About 5,000 people attended. In his address, the Pope said that violence and fanaticism were alien to religion and, if the world is to have a long-lasting peace, it was necessary to foster justice and forgiveness

A Pope Visits A Mosque For the First Time in History



Papa camiye gitti

07.05.2001, Milliyet

The Pope went to a mosque

Pope John Paul II's visit to Syria's Umayyad Mosque in 2001 was the first papal visit to a mosque ever.



On his 2001 Middle East tour, as a sign of respect, the Pope kissed the Qur'an given to him as a gift by Muslim clergyman.



İLK KEZ DÜN BİR PAPA CAMİYE GİTTİ

BU ZİYARET TARİHE GEÇTİ

07.05.2001, Star

Yesterday for the first time a Pope went to a mosque

Members of the Christian Clergy Turn to Islam



Pierre (solda), Fransa'nın en popüler kişisi.

'11 Eylül'den sonra Kur'an okumaya başladım'

Katolik din adamı Pierre, Kur'an-ı Kerim'i, "Her biri kendi içerisinde mükemmel bir ahenge sahip olan surelerden oluşan bir kitap." diye tanımladı.

22.01.2002, Zaman



news telegraph.co.uk

Islam has a purity and energy that Christianity has lost

By David McLaurin, a Roman Catholic priest and writer based in Rome

ACCORDING to many Muslims, the Christian West is decadent, perhaps irredeemably so. Could they be right? Islam has a purity and energy that Christianity seems to have lost. Even if we win the war in Afghanistan, will we have lost another war - the war of ideas?

God is great; there is no God but God, and Mohammed is His prophet ... These words are the essence of Islam. One can say nothing abo[ut] God except that He is God. His greatness can[not] be put into words.

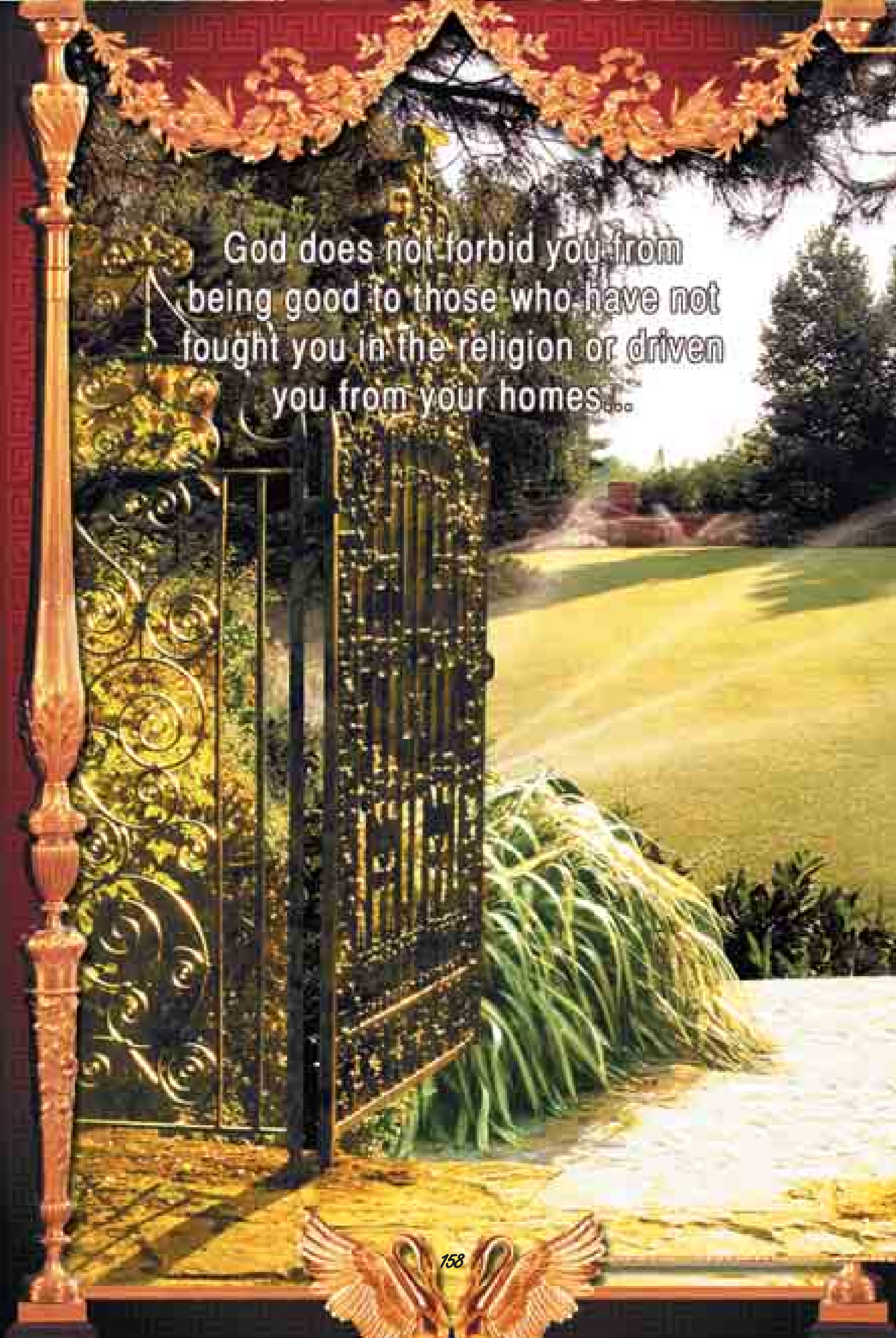
This transcendental quality is the reason for Islam's extraordinary success. It is austere and simple, religion in its purest form. By contrast, Christianity seems cluttered and its meaning obscure, its once powerful symbols wrapped up in ritual and hidden away. The starkness and terror of the Cross have been forgotten.

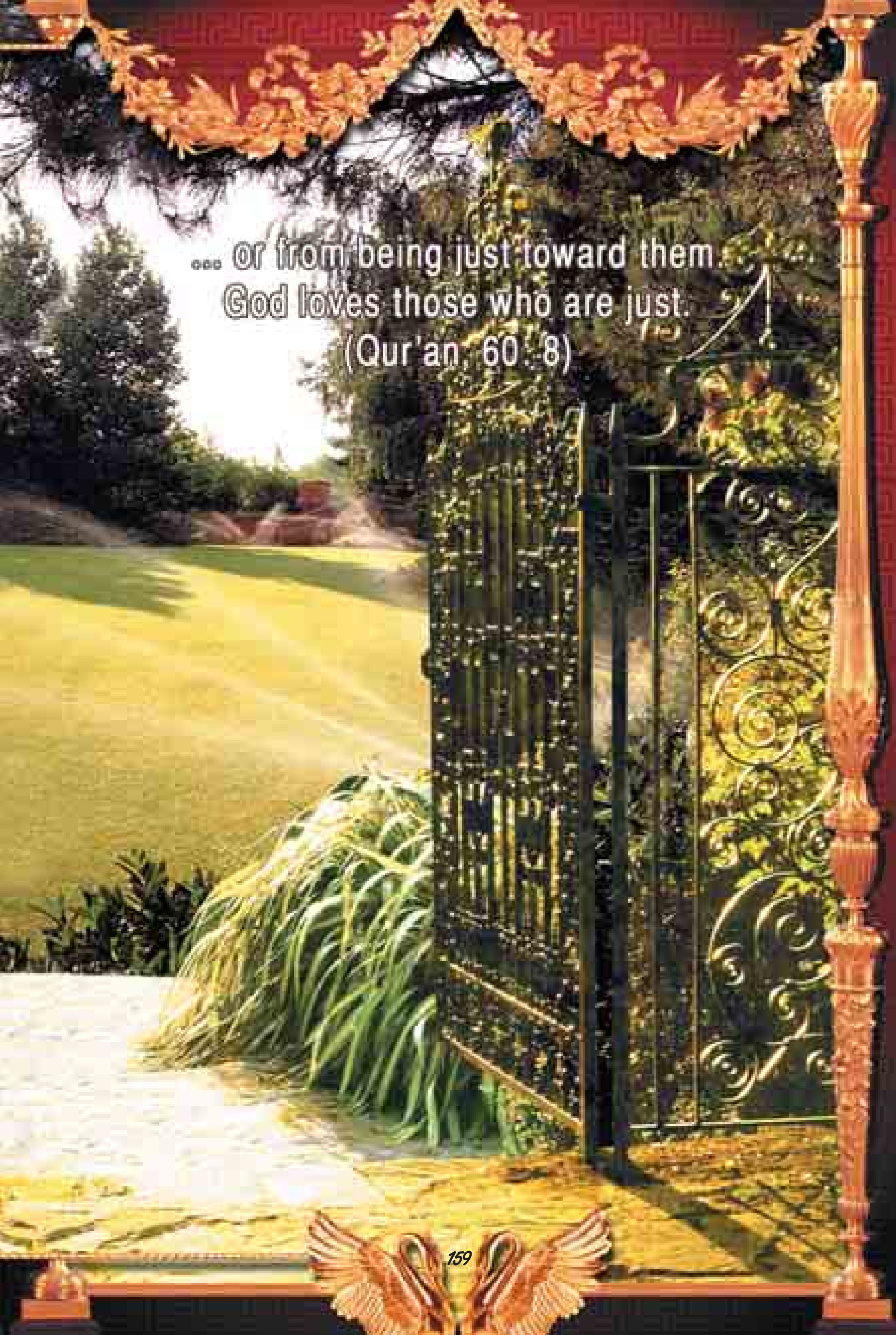
After 9/11 I started to read the Qur'an

Abbé Pierre, selected as France's favorite clergyman, said he began to read the Qur'an after 9/11, and that it was a wonderful book. In an interview with the French magazine *Le Point*, he explained:

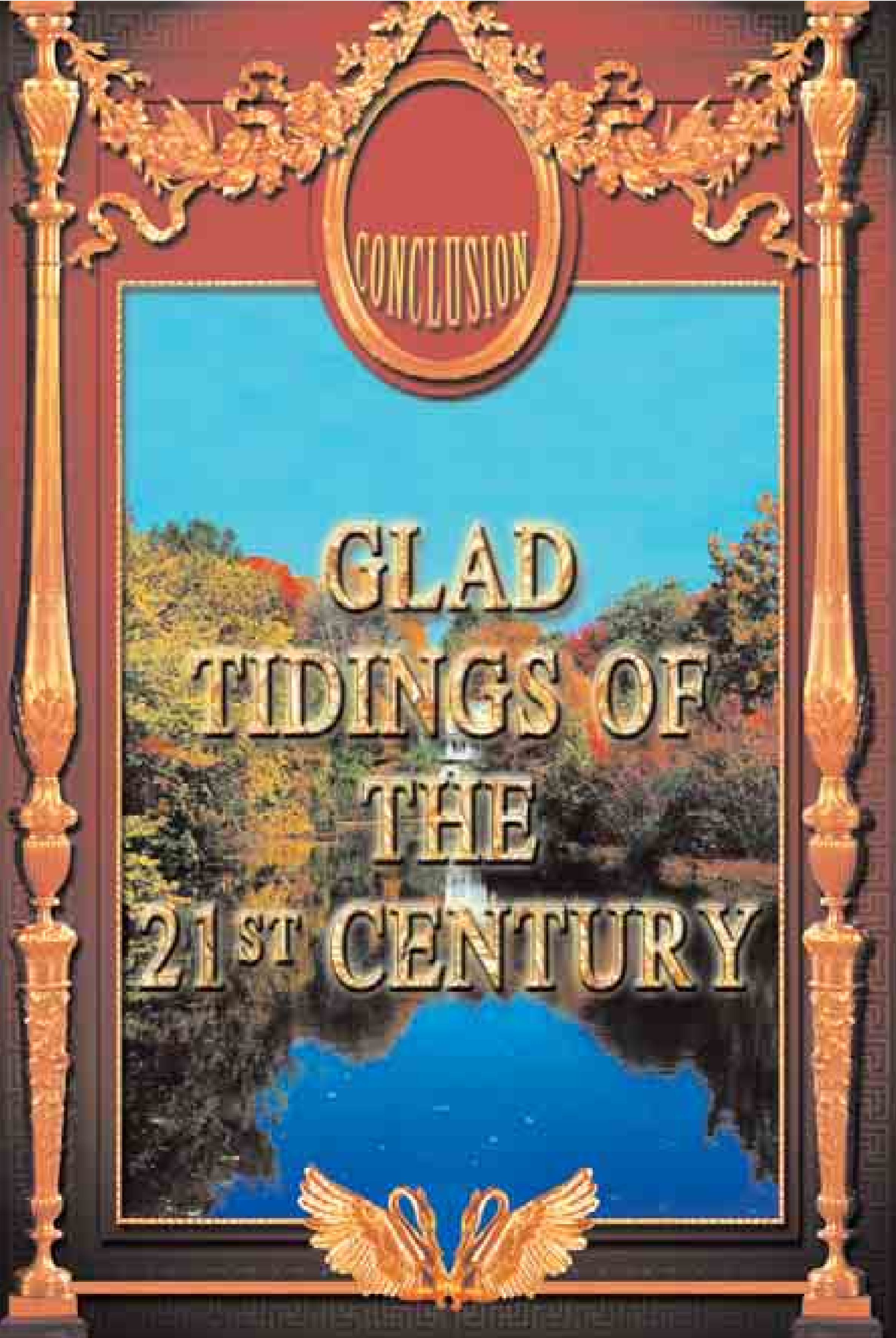
> **Islam has preserved the deeds and actions that strengthen religious faith and connect people with God. This is demonstrated by the simultaneous and sincere prostrations performed in God's presence by thousands of people following the month of Ramadan. In our schools they tell us about the glory and the importance of the Crusades. But later we learned how shameful these crusades were. Crusaders committed terrible crimes and sins along the way.**

In his article in the *Telegraph*, Catholic priest David McLaurin said that Islam preserves the purity and sincerity that Christianity has lost and that this is why many people are turning to it.


God does not forbid you from
being good to those who have not
fought you in the religion or driven
you from your homes...



... or from being just toward them.
God loves those who are just.
(Qur'an, 60: 8)


CONCLUSION
GLAD TIDINGS OF THE 21ST CENTURY

In this book, we have examined atheism's collapse during the past 30 years, the increase of faith in God throughout certain parts of the world, and the growth of religion. We also showed that the most important factor in this growth is being played by Islam. We considered the rising rate of conversion, and the interest expressed by government officials, politicians, and the media in Islam. Putting all of this information together, it becomes apparent that there is a strong movement toward Islam in many countries, and that Islam is increasingly becoming the most important topic of world interest. These developments indicate that the world is moving toward a totally new era, one in which, God willing, Islam will gain in importance and the Qur'an's moral teachings will spread like a rising tide. It is important to realize that this highly significant development was announced in the Qur'an 14 centuries ago:

> **They desire to extinguish God's Light with their mouths. But God refuses to do other than perfect His Light, even though the unbelievers detest it. It is He Who sent His Messenger with guidance and the True Religion to exalt it over every other religion, even though the idolaters detest it. (Qur'an, 9:32-33)**

The Qur'an also that indicates that Islamic morality will spread throughout the world, for God wills the following:

God has promised those of you who believe and do right actions that He will make them successors in the land, as He made those before them successors, and will firmly establish for them their religion, with which He is pleased, and give them, in place of their fear, security. "They worship Me, not associating anything with Me." Any who disbelieve after that, such people are deviators. (Qur'an, 24: 55)

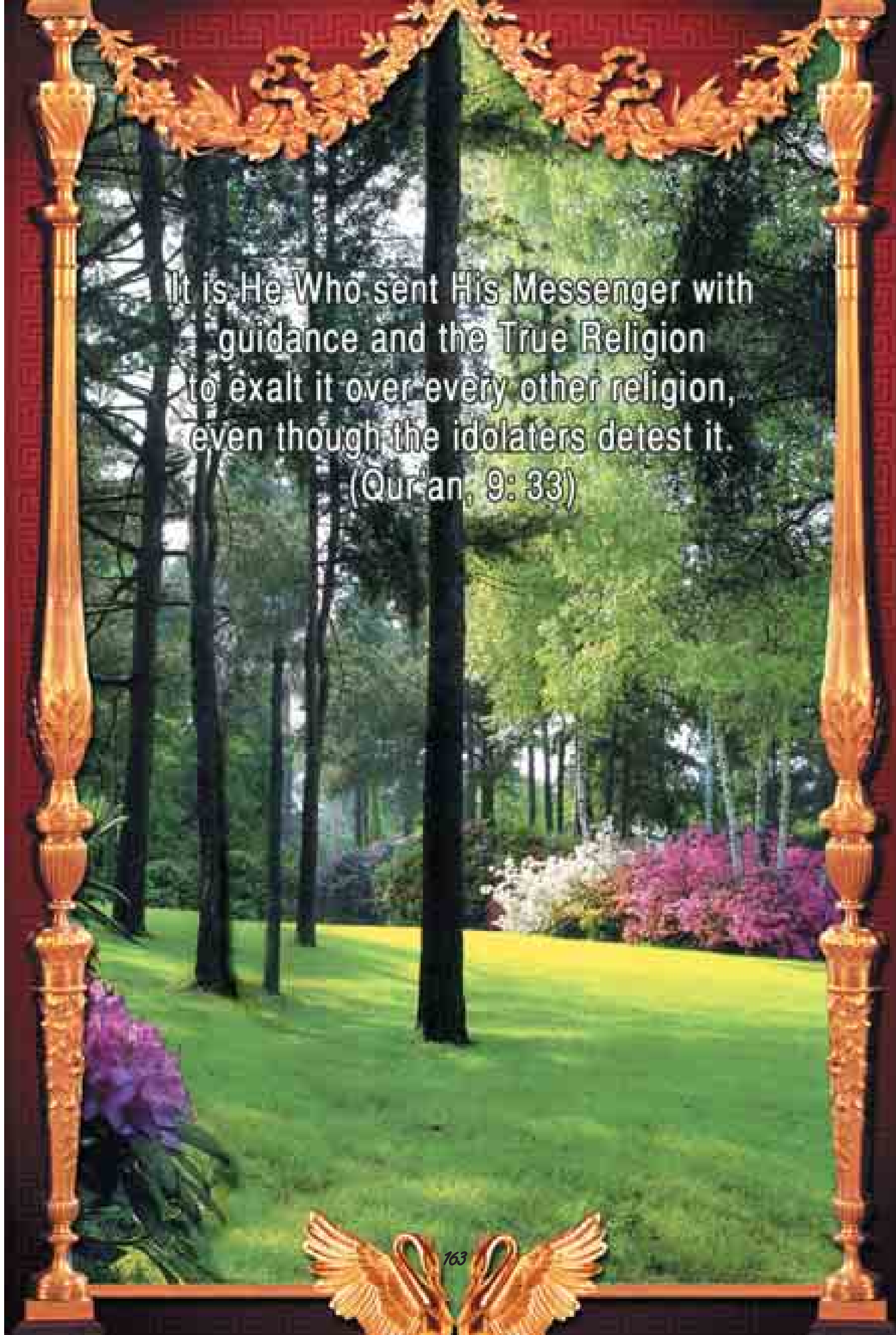
The spread of Islamic morality is one of God's promises to believers. In addition to these verses, many sayings of our Prophet, may God bless him and grant him peace, assert that the Qur'an's moral teachings will prevail. In the last days before the end of the world, humanity will experience a period in which wrongdoing, injustice, deceit, fraud, wars, strife, conflict, and moral degeneration is wide-spread. Then will come the Golden Age, in which these moral teachings will begin to spread among people like a rising tide and finally prevail throughout the world. Some of these sayings, as well learned commentaries upon them, are given below:

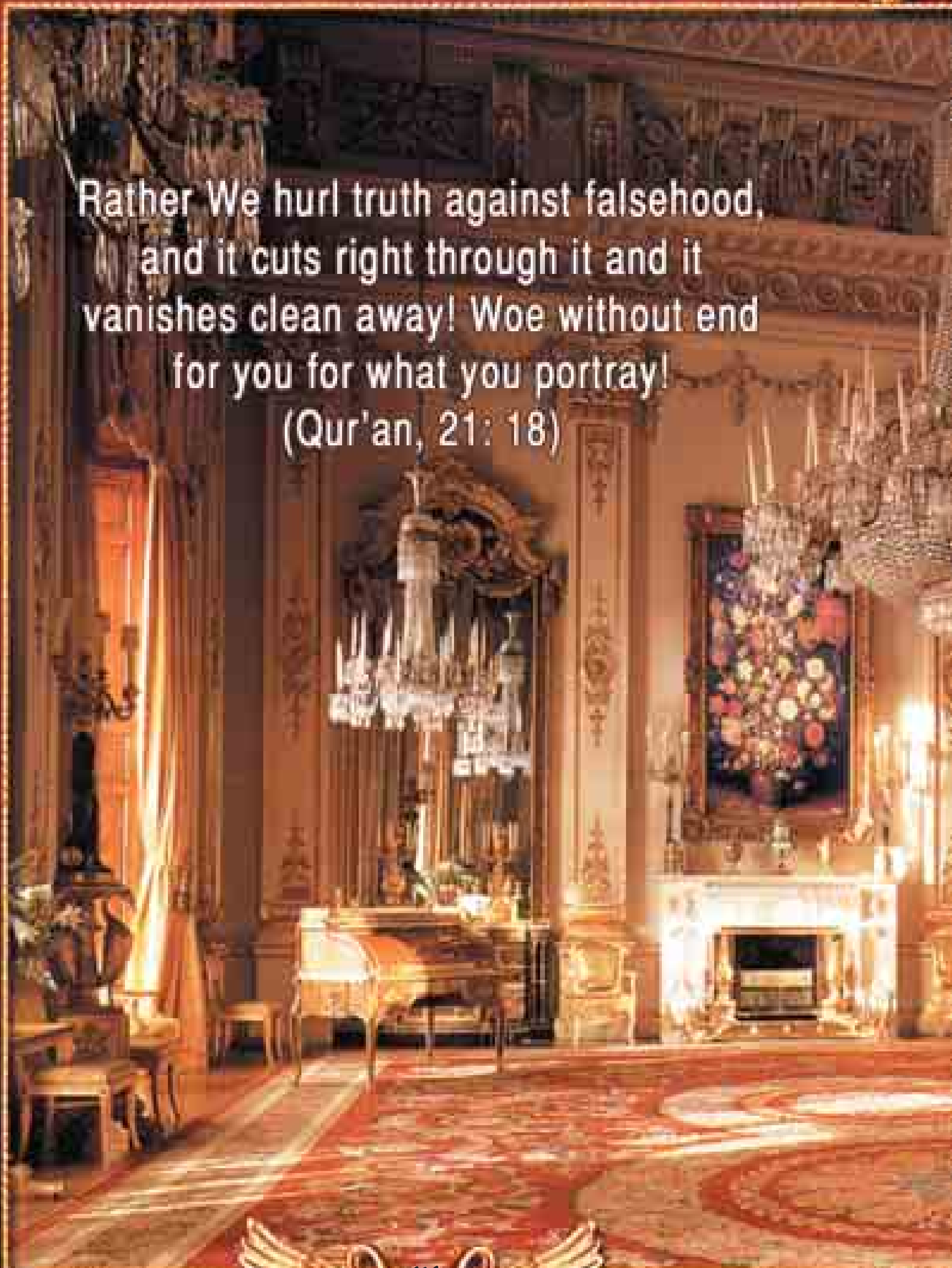
During this [period], my ummah [people] would lead such a comfortable and carefree life which they never led like that. [The land] would bring forth its yield and would not hold back anything and the property at that time would be a stack. (Sunan Ibn-i Majah)

… The dwellers of the heavens and the earth will be pleased. The earth will bring forth all that grows, and the heavens will pour down rains in abundance. From all the good that God will bestow on the inhabitants of the earth, the living will wish that the dead would come to life again. (Yanabi' al-mawadda, Vol. 2, p. 177)

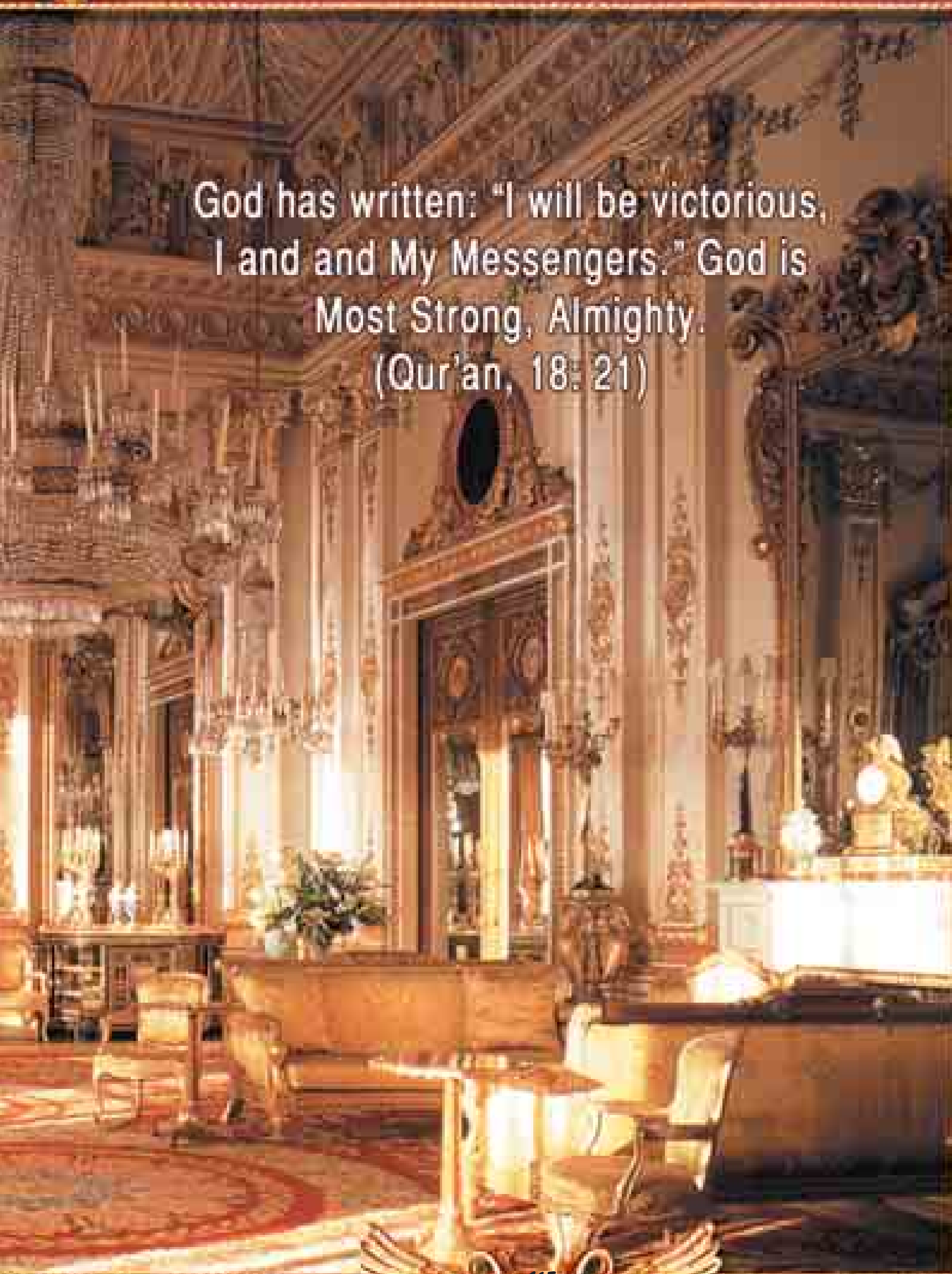
The earth would turn like the silver tray growing vegetation... (Sunan Ibn-i Majah)

The earth will be filled with equity and justice as it was pre viously filled with oppression and tyranny. (Abu Dawud)


It is He Who sent His Messenger with guidance and the True Religion to exalt it over every other religion, even though the idolaters detest it.
(Qur'an, 9: 33)



Rather We hurl truth against falsehood, and it cuts right through it and it vanishes clean away! Woe without end for you for what you portray!
(Qur'an, 21: 18)



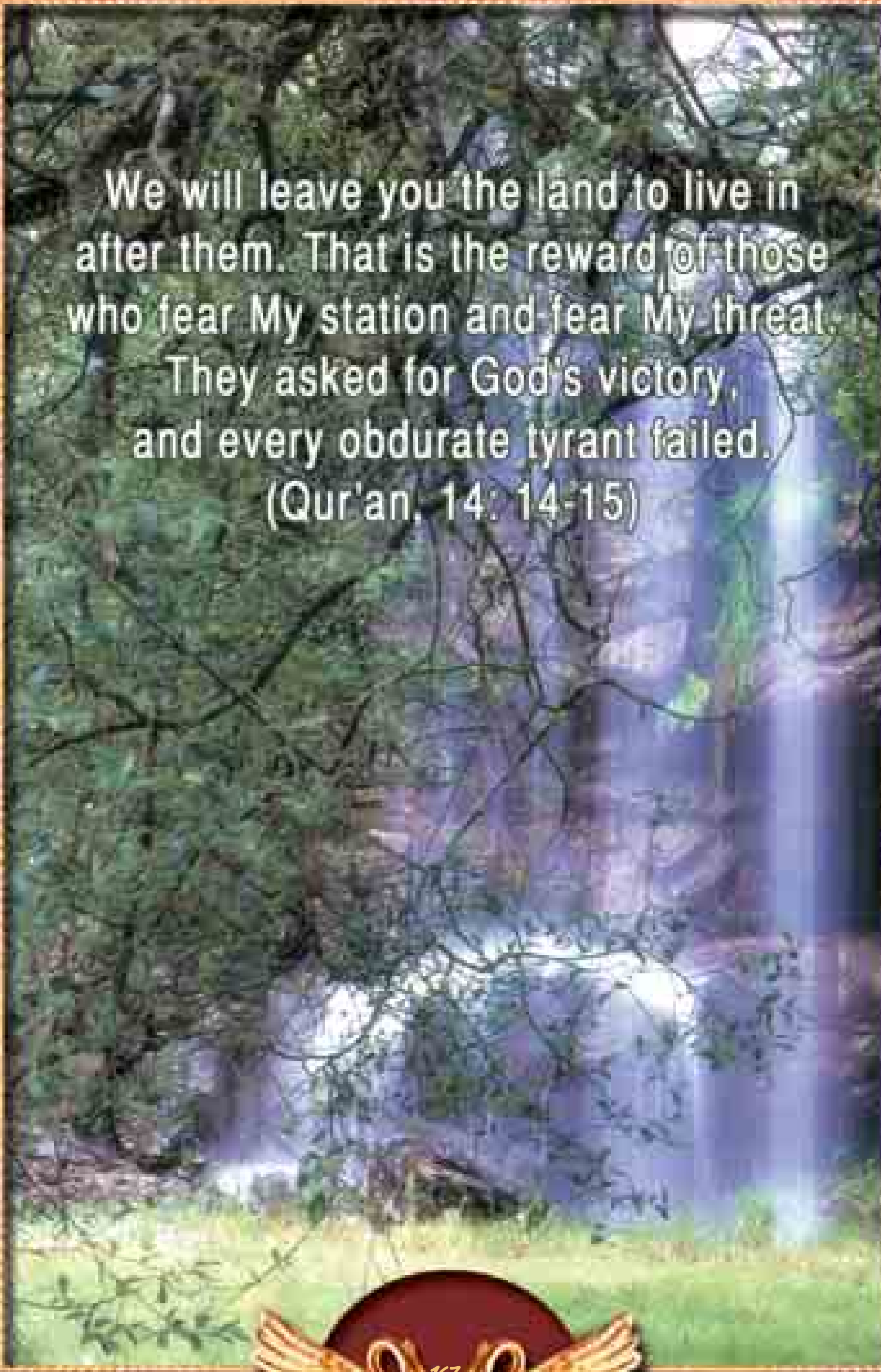
God has written: "I will be victorious,
I and and My Messengers." God is
Most Strong, Almighty.
(Qur'an, 18: 21)

... There will be no injustice or oppression. (ad-Dani)

Based upon these statements, the Golden Age will be an era in which justice, plenty, abundance, well-being, security, peace, and brotherhood will prevail among humanity, and one in which people will experience love, self-sacrifice, tolerance, compassion, mercy, and loyalty. In his sayings, our Prophet, may God bless him and grant him peace, says that this blessed period will be experienced through the mediation of the Mahdi, who will come in the end times to save the world form chaos, injustice, and moral collapse. He will eradicate godless ideologies and bring an end to the prevailing injustice. Moreover, he will make religion like it was in the days of our Prophet, cause the Qur'an's moral teachings to prevail among humanity, and establish peace and well-being throughout the world.

This difficult responsibility requires serious effort. It is highly probable, as some Islamic scholars point out, that the Mahdi, who will realize this goal, is a spiritual being who will rule in the last days (God knows best). When the time comes, this spiritual being will use its foundation of Islamic morality to lead humanity to a modern enlightened world in which peace and well-being prevail. This is what doing the work of the Mahdi means.

The rise of Islam being experienced in the world today, as well as Turkey's role in the new era are important signs that the period announced in the Qur'an and in our Prophet's sayings is very close. It is our heartfelt desire that God will let us witness this blessed time.


We will leave you the land to live in
after them. That is the reward of those
who fear My station and fear My threat.
They asked for God's victory,
and every obdurate tyrant failed.
(Qur'an, 14: 14-15)

APPENDIX

THE DECEPTION OF EVOLUTION

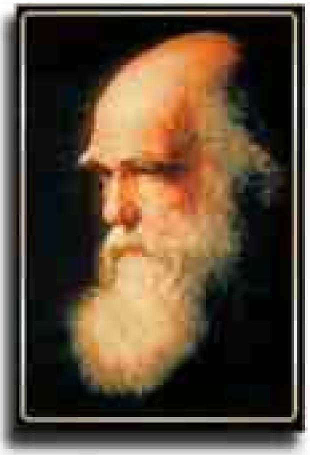
In the present day, there are people who live in a manner far removed from God, and who even reject faith and deny the existence of God for their own ends. On account of their blindness and mindless fearlessness, they try to influence others and turn them away from God. They have put forward a whole range of inconsistent ideas and twisted ideologies by which to do this. One of these is the theory of evolution.

The Ideological Collapse of Darwinism

The aspect of Darwinism that stops it from being a claim of interest only to the scientific world and makes it of great importance to society as a whole is its ideological dimension. The answer it gives to the question of how living things, including mankind, came into existence makes Darwinism the basis of a number of philosophies, worldviews and political ideologies.

Here, we shall consider the relationship between Darwinism and materialist philosophy. Materialist philosophy, or "materialism," is a system of thought going as far back as ancient Greece. Materialism rests on the assumption that matter is the only thing that exists. According to materialist philosophy, matter

has always existed, and will continue to do so for all time. Again according to this philosophy, nothing exists beyond matter.



Charles Darwin

Naturally, materialism is also reflected in the political arena, with communism indisputably taking pride of place in this regard. Karl Marx (1818-83) and Friedrich Engels (1820-95), regarded as the founders of communism, were also the founders of dialectical materialism. In any case, communism is nothing more than materialist philosophy adapted to the social sciences by Marx and Engels.

Communism is today regarded as an ideology consigned to the wastes of history, whereas the fact is that it is still exceedingly influential. The destructive effects of this ideology can still be felt in many countries.

This is where Darwinism assumes great importance. Since Darwinism, or the theory of evolution, maintains that living things were not created but came into being by chance, it has received a wide acceptance among materialist ideologies, and has been adopted as the "basic foundation" of communism in particular. All the main communist ideologues have accepted the theory word for word, and have based their ideologies upon it.

In a letter to Friedrich Engels in 1860, for instance, Karl Marx said of Darwin's book that "This is the book which contains the basis in natural history for our view."[84] In another letter the following year, this time to Ferdinand Lassalle (1825-64), Marx said: "Darwin's book is very important and serves me as a basis in natural science for the

class struggle in history."[85] Similarly Mao Tse Tung, the founder of Chinese communism, openly stated that "The foundations of Chinese socialism rest on Darwin and the theory of evolution."[86]

Thus the intellectual struggle against communism must be aimed at materialist philosophy and, therefore, the theory of evolution. It is also clear that the wide acceptance of the theory of evolution in society will further nourish materialism as well as communism.

The Scientific Collapse of Darwinism

Although this doctrine goes back as far as ancient Greece, the theory of evolution was advanced extensively in the nineteenth century. The most important development that made it the top topic of the world of science was Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, published in 1859. In this book, he denied that God created different living species on Earth separately, for he claimed that all living beings had a common ancestor and had diversified over time through small changes. Darwin's theory was not based on any concrete scientific finding; as he also accepted, it was just an "assumption." Moreover, as Darwin confessed in the long chapter of his book titled "Difficulties of the Theory," the theory failed in the face of many critical questions.

Darwin invested all of his hopes in new scientific discoveries, which he expected to solve these difficulties. However, contrary to his expectations, scientific findings expanded the dimensions of these difficulties. The defeat of Darwinism in the face of science can be reviewed under three basic topics:

1) The theory cannot explain how life originated on Earth.

2) No scientific finding shows that the "evolutionary mechanisms" proposed by the theory have any evolutionary power at all.

3) The fossil record proves the exact opposite of what the theory suggests.

In this section, we will examine these three basic points in general outlines:

The First Insurmountable Step: The Origin of Life

The theory of evolution posits that all living species evolved from a single living cell that emerged on the primitive Earth 3.8 billion years ago. How a single cell could generate millions of complex living species and, if such an evolution really occurred, why traces of it cannot be observed in the fossil record are some of the questions that the theory cannot answer. However, first and foremost, we need to ask: How did this "first cell" originate?

Since the theory of evolution denies creation and any kind of supernatural intervention, it maintains that the "first cell" originated coincidentally within the laws of nature, without any design, plan or arrangement. According to the theory, inanimate matter must have produced a living cell as a result of coincidences. Such a claim, however, is inconsistent with the most unassailable rules of biology.

"Life Comes from Life"

In his book, Darwin never referred to the origin of life. The primitive understanding of science in his time rested on the assumption that living beings had a very simple structure. Since medieval times,

spontaneous generation, which asserts that non-living materials came together to form living organisms, had been widely accepted. It was commonly believed that insects came into being from food left-overs, and mice from wheat. Interesting experiments were conducted to prove this theory. Some wheat was placed on a dirty piece of cloth, and it was believed that mice would originate from it after a while.



The French biologist Louis Pasteur

Similarly, maggots developing in rotting meat was assumed to be evidence of spontaneous generation. However, it was later understood that worms did not appear on meat spontaneously, but were carried there by flies in the form of larvae, invisible to the naked eye.

Even when Darwin wrote *The Origin of Species*, the belief that bacteria could come into existence from non-living matter was widely accepted in the world of science.

However, five years after the publication of Darwin's book, Louis Pasteur announced his results after long studies and experiments, that disproved spontaneous generation, a cornerstone of Darwin's theory. In his triumphal lecture at the Sorbonne in 1864, Pasteur said: *"Never will the doctrine of spontaneous generation recover from the mortal blow struck by this simple experiment."*[87]

For a long time, advocates of the theory of evolution resisted these findings. However, as the development of science unraveled the complex structure of the cell of a living being, the idea that life could come into being coincidentally faced an even greater impasse.

Inconclusive Efforts in the Twentieth Century



The Russian biologist Alexander Oparin

The first evolutionist who took up the subject of the origin of life in the twentieth century was the renowned Russian biologist Alexander Oparin. With various theses he advanced in the 1930s, he tried to prove that a living cell could originate by coincidence. These studies, however, were doomed to failure, and Oparin had to make the following confession:

Unfortunately, however, the problem of the origin of the cell is perhaps the most obscure point in the whole study of the evolution of organisms.[88]

Evolutionist followers of Oparin tried to carry out experiments to solve this problem. The best known experiment was carried out by the American chemist Stanley Miller in 1953. Combining the gases he alleged to have existed in the primordial Earth's atmosphere in an experiment set-up, and adding energy to the mixture, Miller synthesized several organic molecules (amino acids) present in the structure of proteins.

Barely a few years had passed before it was revealed that this experiment, which was then presented as an important step in the name of evolution, was invalid, for the atmosphere used in the experiment was very different from the real Earth conditions.[89]

After a long silence, Miller confessed that the atmosphere medium he used was unrealistic.[90]

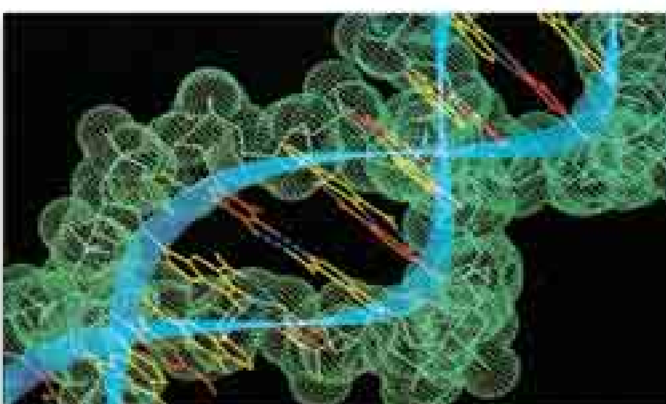
All the evolutionists' efforts throughout the twentieth century to

explain the origin of life ended in failure. The geochemist Jeffrey Bada, from the San Diego Scripps Institute accepts this fact in an article published in *Earth* magazine in 1998:

> Today as we leave the twentieth century, we still face the biggest unsolved problem that we had when we entered the twentieth century: How did life originate on Earth?[91]

The Complex Structure of Life

The primary reason why the theory of evolution ended up in such a great impasse regarding the origin of life is that even those living organisms deemed to be the simplest have incredibly complex structures. The cell of a living thing is more complex than all of our



All information about living beings is stored in the DNA molecule. This incredibly efficient information storage method alone is a clear evidence that life did not come into being by chance, but has been purposely designed, or, better to say, marvellously created.

man-made technological products. Today, even in the most developed laboratories of the world, a living cell cannot be produced by bringing organic chemicals together.

The conditions required for the formation of a cell are too great in quantity to be explained away by coincidences. The probability of proteins, the building blocks of a cell, being synthesized coincidentally, is 1 in 10^{950} for an average protein made up of 500 amino acids. In mathematics, a probability smaller than 1 over 10^{50} is considered to be impossible in practical terms.

The DNA molecule, which is located in the nucleus of a cell and which stores genetic information, is an incredible databank. If the information coded in DNA were written down, it would make a giant library consisting of an estimated 900 volumes of encyclopedias consisting of 500 pages each.

A very interesting dilemma emerges at this point: DNA can replicate itself only with the help of some specialized proteins (enzymes). However, the synthesis of these enzymes can be realized



only by the information coded in DNA. As they both depend on each other, they have to exist at the same time for replication. This brings the scenario that life originated by itself to a deadlock. Prof. Leslie Orgel, an evolutionist of repute from the University of San Diego, California, confesses this fact in the September

1994 issue of the *Scientific American* magazine:

> It is extremely improbable that proteins and nucleic acids, both of which are structurally complex, arose spontaneously in the same place at the same time. Yet it also seems impossible to have one without the other. And so, at first glance, one might have to conclude that life could never, in fact, have originated by chemical means.[92]

No doubt, if it is impossible for life to have originated from natural causes, then it has to be accepted that life was "created" in a supernatural way. This fact explicitly invalidates the theory of evolution, whose main purpose is to deny creation.

Imaginary Mechanisms of Evolution

The second important point that negates Darwin's theory is that both concepts put forward by the theory as "evolutionary mechanisms" were understood to have, in reality, no evolutionary power.

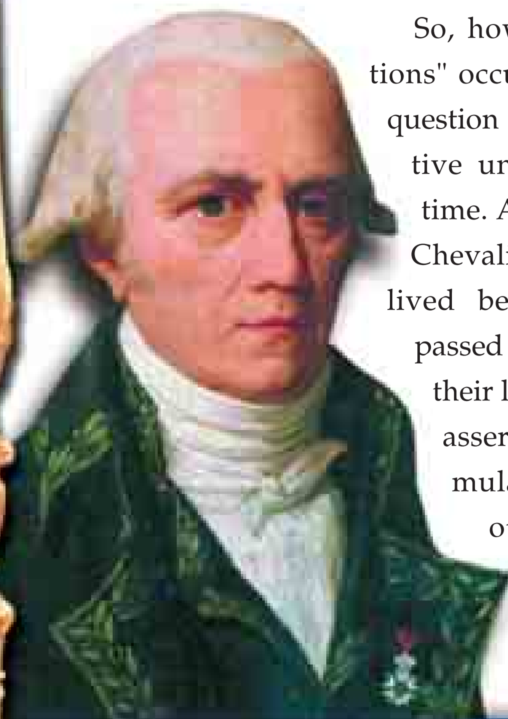
Darwin based his evolution allegation entirely on the mechanism of "natural selection." The importance he placed on this mechanism was evident in the name of his book: *The Origin of Species, By Means of Natural Selection…*

Natural selection holds that those living things that are stronger and more suited to the natural conditions of their habitats will survive in the struggle for life. For example, in a deer herd under the threat of attack by wild animals, those that can run faster will survive. Therefore, the deer herd will be comprised of faster and stronger individuals. However, unquestionably, this mechanism will not cause deer to evolve and transform themselves into another living species, for instance, horses.

Therefore, the mechanism of natural selection has no evolutionary power. Darwin was also aware of this fact and had to state this in his book *The Origin of Species:*

> Natural selection can do nothing until favourable individual differences or variations occur.[93]

Lamarck's Impact



So, how could these "favorable variations" occur? Darwin tried to answer this question from the standpoint of the primitive understanding of science at that time. According to the French biologist Chevalier de Lamarck (1744-1829), who lived before Darwin, living creatures passed on the traits they acquired during their lifetime to the next generation. He asserted that these traits, which accumulated from one generation to another, caused new species to be formed. For instance, he claimed that giraffes evolved from antelopes; as they struggled



to eat the leaves of high trees, their necks were extended from generation to generation.

Darwin also gave similar examples. In his book *The Origin of Species*, for instance, he said that some bears going into water to find food transformed themselves into whales over time.[94]

However, the laws of inheritance discovered by Gregor Mendel (1822-84) and verified by the science of genetics, which flourished in the twentieth century, utterly demolished the legend that acquired traits were passed on to subsequent generations. Thus, natural selection fell out of favor as an evolutionary mechanism.

Neo-Darwinism and Mutations

In order to find a solution, Darwinists advanced the "Modern Synthetic Theory," or as it is more commonly known, Neo-Darwinism, at the end of the 1930's. Neo-Darwinism added mutations, which are distortions formed in the genes of living beings due to such external factors as radiation or replication errors, as the "cause of favorable variations" in addition to natural mutation.

Today, the model that stands for evolution in the world is Neo-Darwinism. The theory maintains that millions of living beings formed as a result of a process whereby numerous complex organs of these organisms (e.g., ears, eyes, lungs, and wings) underwent "mutations," that is, genetic disorders. Yet, there is an outright scientific fact that totally undermines this theory: Mutations do not cause living beings to develop; on the contrary, they are always harmful.

The reason for this is very simple: DNA has a very complex structure, and random effects can only harm it. The American geneticist B.G. Ranganathan explains this as follows:



Mutations—breaks or replacements taking place in the DNA molecule—are the result of external effects such as radiation or chemical action. This mutated Vietnamese boy is a nuclear weapon victim.

> First, genuine mutations are very rare in nature. Secondly, most mutations are harmful since they are random, rather than orderly changes in the structure of genes; any random change in a highly ordered system will be for the worse, not for the better. For example, if an earthquake were to shake a highly ordered structure such as a building, there would be a random change in the framework of the building which, in all probability, would not be an improvement.[95]

Not surprisingly, no mutation example, which is useful, that is, which is observed to develop the genetic code, has been observed so far. All mutations have proved to be harmful. It was understood that mutation, which is presented as an "evolutionary mechanism," is actually a genetic occurrence that harms living things, and leaves them disabled. (The most common effect of mutation on human beings is cancer.) Of course, a destructive mechanism cannot be an "evolutionary mechanism." Natural selection, on the other hand, "can do nothing by itself," as Darwin also accepted. This fact shows us that there is no "evolutionary mechanism" in nature. Since no evolutionary mech-



The 150-200-million-year-old fossil dragonfly (Jurassic-Recent age) is no different from specimens living today.

anism exists, no such any imaginary process called "evolution" could have taken place.

The Fossil Record: No Sign of Intermediate Forms

The clearest evidence that the scenario suggested by the theory of evolution did not take place is the fossil record.

According to this theory, every living species has sprung from a predecessor. A previously existing species turned into something else over time and all species have come into being in this way. In other words, this transformation proceeds gradually over millions of years.

Had this been the case, numerous intermediary species should have existed and lived within this long transformation period.

For instance, some half-fish/half-reptiles should have lived in the past which had acquired some reptilian traits in addition to the fish traits they already had. Or there should have existed some rep-

tile-birds, which acquired some bird traits in addition to the reptilian traits they already had. Since these would be in a transitional phase, they should be disabled, defective, crippled living beings. Evolutionists refer to these imaginary creatures, which they believe to have lived in the past, as **"transitional forms."**

If such animals ever really existed, there should be millions and even billions of them in number and variety. More importantly, the remains of these strange creatures should be present in the fossil record. In *The Origin of Species*, Darwin explained:

> If my theory be true, numberless intermediate varieties, linking most closely all of the species of the same group together must assuredly have existed.... Consequently, evidence of their former existence could be found only amongst fossil remains.[96]

Darwin's Hopes Shattered

However, although evolutionists have been making strenuous efforts to find fossils since the middle of the nineteenth century all over the world, no transitional forms have yet been uncovered. All of the fossils, contrary to the evolutionists' expectations, show that life appeared on Earth all of a sudden and fully-formed.

One famous British paleontologist, Derek V. Ager, admits this fact, even though he is an evolutionist:

> The point emerges that if we examine the fossil record in detail, whether at the level of orders or of species, we find – over and over again – not gradual evolution, but the sudden explosion of one group at the expense of another.[97]

This means that in the fossil record, all living species suddenly emerge as fully formed, without any intermediate forms in between.

This is just the opposite of Darwin's assumptions. Also, this is very strong evidence that all living things are created. The only explanation of a living species emerging suddenly and complete in every detail without any evolutionary ancestor is that it was created. This fact is admitted also by the widely known evolutionist biologist Douglas Futuyma:

> Creation and evolution, between them, exhaust the possible explanations for the origin of living things. Organisms either appeared on the earth fully developed or they did not. If they did not, they must have developed from pre-existing species by some process of modification. If they did appear in a fully developed state, they must indeed have been created by some omnipotent intelligence.[98]

Fossils show that living beings emerged fully developed and in a perfect state on the earth. That means that **"the origin of species," contrary to Darwin's supposition, is not evolution, but creation.**

The Tale of Human Evolution

The subject most often brought up by advocates of the theory of evolution is the subject of the origin of man. The Darwinist claim holds that modern man evolved from ape-like creatures. During this alleged evolutionary process, which is supposed to have started 4-5 million years ago, some "transitional forms" between modern man and his ancestors are supposed to have existed. According to this completely imaginary scenario, four basic "categories" are listed:

1. *Australopithecus*
2. *Homo habilis*
3. *Homo erectus*
4. *Homo sapiens*

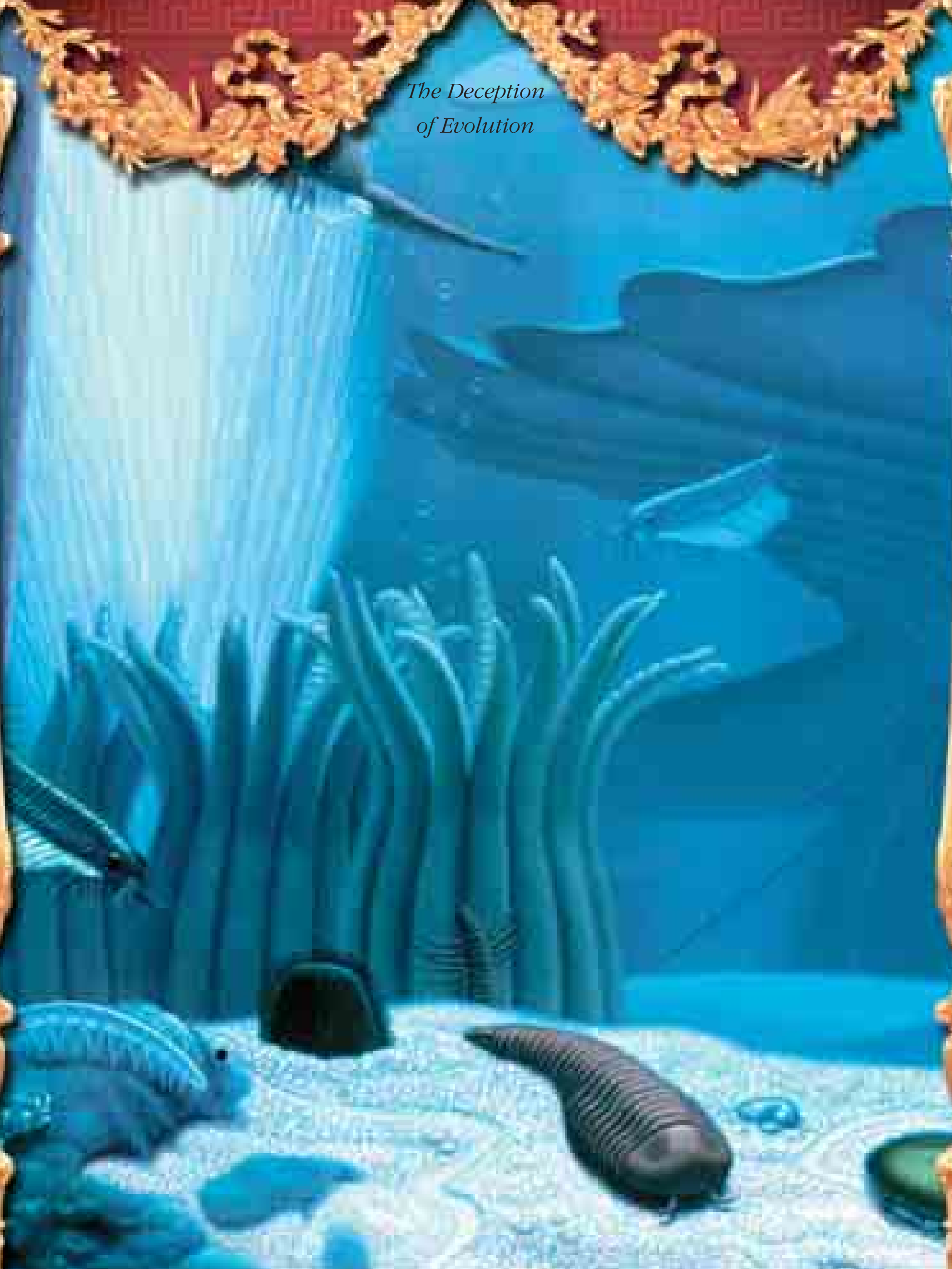
Evolutionists call man's so-called first ape-like ancestors *Australopithecus,* which means "South African ape." These living beings are actually nothing but an old ape species that has become extinct. Extensive research done on various *Australopithecus* specimens by two world famous anatomists from England and the USA, namely, Lord Solly Zuckerman and Prof. Charles Oxnard, shows that these apes belonged to an ordinary ape species that became extinct and bore no resemblance to humans.[99]

Evolutionists classify the next stage of human evolution as *"homo,"* that is "man." According to their claim, the living beings in the *Homo* series are more developed than *Australopithecus.* Evolutionists devise a fanciful evolution scheme by arranging different fossils of these creatures in a particular order. This scheme is imaginary because it has never been proved that there is an evolutionary relation between these different classes. Ernst Mayr, one of the twentieth century's most important evolutionists, contends in his book *One Long Argument* that "particularly historical [puzzles] such as the origin of life or of *Homo* sapiens, are extremely difficult and may even resist a final, satisfying explanation."[100]

By outlining the link chain as *Australopithecus > Homo habilis > Homo erectus > Homo sapiens,* evolutionists imply that each of these species is one another's ancestor. However, recent findings of paleoanthropologists have revealed that *Australopithecus, Homo habilis,* and *Homo erectus* lived at different parts of the world at the same time.[101]

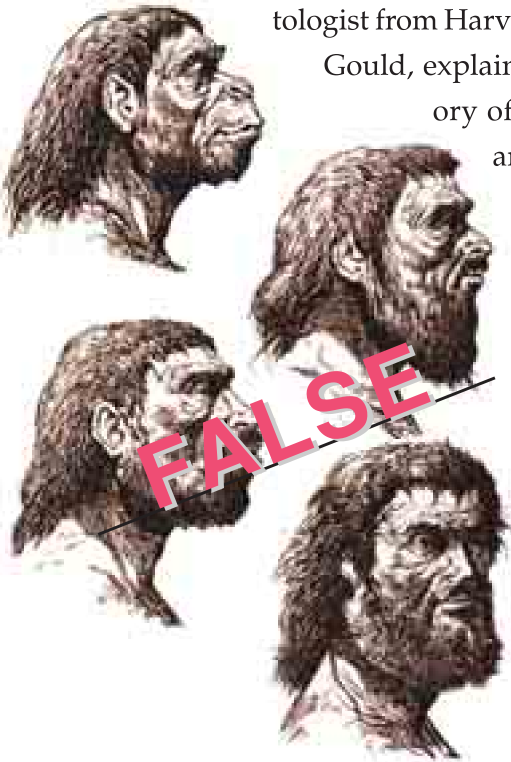
Moreover, a certain segment of humans classified as *Homo erectus* have lived up until very modern times. *Homo sapiens neandarthalensis* and *Homo sapiens sapiens* (modern man) co-existed in the same region.[102]

This situation apparently indicates the invalidity of the claim



The theory of evolution claims that living species gradually evolved from one another. The fossil record, however, explicitly falsifies this claim. For example, in the Cambrian Period, some 550 million years ago, tens of totally distinct living species emerged suddenly. These living beings depicted in the above picture have very complex structures. This fact, referred to as the "Cambrian Explosion" in scientific literature is plain evidence of creation.

that they are ancestors of one another. A paleontologist from Harvard University, Stephen Jay Gould, explains this deadlock of the theory of evolution, although he is an evolutionist himself:



What has become of our ladder if there are three coexisting lineages of hominids (A. africanus, the robust australopithecines, and H. habilis), none clearly derived from another? Moreover, none of the three display any evolutionary trends during their tenure on earth.[103]

Imaginary representations of 'primitive' human beings are frequently employed in stories carried by pro-evolution newspapers and magazines. The only source for these stories, based on these imaginary representations, are the imaginations of their authors. Yet evolution has suffered such a defeat in the face of the scientific facts that fewer reports concerning evolution now appear in scientific magazines.

Put briefly, the scenario of human evolution, which is "upheld" with the help of various drawings of some "half ape, half human" creatures appearing in the media and course books, that is, frankly, by means of propaganda, is nothing but a tale with no scientific foundation.

Lord Solly Zuckerman, one of the most famous and respected scientists in the U.K., who carried out research on this subject for

years and studied *Australopithecus* fossils for 15 years, finally concluded, despite being an evolutionist himself, that there is, in fact, no such family tree branching out from ape-like creatures to man.

Zuckerman also made an interesting "spectrum of science" ranging from those he considered scientific to those he considered unscientific. According to Zuckerman's spectrum, the most "scientific"—that is, depending on concrete data—fields of science are chemistry and physics. After them come the biological sciences and then the social sciences. At the far end of the spectrum, which is the part considered to be most "unscientific," are "extra-sensory perception"—concepts such as telepathy and sixth sense—and finally "human evolution." Zuckerman explains his reasoning:

> We then move right off the register of objective truth into those fields of presumed biological science, like extrasensory perception or the interpretation of man's fossil history, where to the faithful [evolutionist] anything is possible – and where the ardent believer [in evolution] is sometimes able to believe several contradictory things at the same time.[104]

The tale of human evolution boils down to nothing but the prejudiced interpretations of some fossils unearthed by certain people, who blindly adhere to their theory.

Technology in the Eye and the Ear

Another subject that remains unanswered by evolutionary theory is the excellent quality of perception in the eye and the ear.

Before passing on to the subject of the eye, let us briefly answer the question of how we see. Light rays coming from an object fall oppositely on the eye's retina. Here, these light rays are transmitted into

electric signals by cells and reach a tiny spot at the back of the brain, the "center of vision." These electric signals are perceived in this center as an image after a series of processes. With this technical background, let us do some thinking.

The brain is insulated from light. That means that its inside is completely dark, and that no light reaches the place where it is located. Thus, the "center of vision" is never touched by light and may even be the darkest place you have ever known. However, you observe a luminous, bright world in this pitch darkness.

The image formed in the eye is so sharp and distinct that even the technology of the twentieth century has not been able to attain it. For instance, look at the book you are reading, your hands with which you are holding it, and then lift your head and look around you. Have you ever seen such a sharp and distinct image as this one at any other place? Even the most developed television screen produced by the greatest television producer in the world cannot provide such a sharp image for you. This is a three-dimensional, colored, and extremely sharp image. For more than 100 years, thousands of engineers have been trying to achieve this sharpness. Factories, huge premises were established, much research has been done, plans and designs have been made for this purpose. Again, look at a TV screen and the book you hold in your hands. You will see that there is a big difference in sharpness and distinction. Moreover, the TV screen shows you a two-dimensional image, whereas with your eyes, you watch a three-dimensional perspective with depth.

For many years, tens of thousands of engineers have tried to make a three-dimensional TV and achieve the vision quality of the eye. Yes, they have made a three-dimensional television system, but it is not possible to watch it without putting on special 3-D glasses; moreover, it is only an artificial three-dimension. The background is



Compared to cameras and sound recording machines, the eye and ear are much more complex, much more successful and possess far superior designs to these products of high technology.

more blurred, the foreground appears like a paper setting. Never has it been possible to produce a sharp and distinct vision like that of the eye. In both the camera and the television, there is a loss of image quality.

Evolutionists claim that the mechanism producing this sharp and distinct image has been formed by chance. Now, if somebody told you that the television in your room was formed as a result of chance, that all of its atoms just happened to come together and make up this device that produces an image, what would you think? How can atoms do what thousands of people cannot?

If a device producing a more primitive image than the eye could not have been formed by chance, then it is very evident that the eye and the image seen by the eye could not have been formed by chance. The same situation applies to the ear. The outer ear picks up the available sounds by the auricle and directs them to the middle ear, the middle ear transmits the sound vibrations by intensifying them, and

the inner ear sends these vibrations to the brain by translating them into electric signals. Just as with the eye, the act of hearing finalizes in the center of hearing in the brain.

The situation in the eye is also true for the ear. That is, the brain is insulated from sound just as it is from light. It does not let any sound in. Therefore, no matter how noisy is the outside, the inside of the brain is completely silent. Nevertheless, the sharpest sounds are perceived in the brain. In your completely silent brain, you listen to symphonies, and hear all of the noises in a crowded place. However, were the sound level in your brain was measured by a precise device at that moment, complete silence would be found to be prevailing there.

As is the case with imagery, decades of effort have been spent in trying to generate and reproduce sound that is faithful to the original. The results of these efforts are sound recorders, high-fidelity systems, and systems for sensing sound. Despite all of this technology and the thousands of engineers and experts who have been working on this endeavor, no sound has yet been obtained that has the same sharpness and clarity as the sound perceived by the ear. Think of the highest-quality hi-fi systems produced by the largest company in the music industry. Even in these devices, when sound is recorded some of it is lost; or when you turn on a hi-fi you always hear a hissing sound before the music starts. However, the sounds that are the products of the human body's technology are extremely sharp and clear. A human ear never perceives a sound accompanied by a hissing sound or with atmospherics as does a hi-fi; rather, it perceives sound exactly as it is, sharp and clear. This is the way it has been since the creation of man.

So far, no man-made visual or recording apparatus has been as sensitive and successful in perceiving sensory data as are the eye and

the ear. However, as far as seeing and hearing are concerned, a far greater truth lies beyond all this.

To Whom Does the Consciousness That Sees and Hears within the Brain Belong?

Who watches an alluring world in the brain, listens to symphonies and the twittering of birds, and smells the rose?

The stimulations coming from a person's eyes, ears, and nose travel to the brain as electro-chemical nerve impulses. In biology, physiology, and biochemistry books, you can find many details about how this image forms in the brain. However, you will never come across the most important fact: Who perceives these electro-chemical nerve impulses as images, sounds, odors, and sensory events in the brain? There is a consciousness in the brain that perceives all this without feeling any need for an eye, an ear, and a nose. To whom does this consciousness belong? Of course it does not belong to the nerves, the fat layer, and neurons comprising the brain. This is why Darwinist-materialists, who believe that everything is comprised of matter, cannot answer these questions.

For this consciousness is the spirit created by God, which needs neither the eye to watch the images nor the ear to hear the sounds. Furthermore, it does not need the brain to think.

Everyone who reads this explicit and scientific fact should ponder on Almighty God, and fear and seek refuge in Him, for He squeezes the entire universe in a pitch-dark place of a few cubic centimeters in a three-dimensional, colored, shadowy, and luminous form.



Someone who looks at a seal perceives it in his brain. Similarly, it is in his brain that he investigates and examines the features of that creature he sees in his brain. The things he learns reveal to him the prefection of God's creation and the superiority of His wisdom and knowledge.

A Materialist Faith

The information we have presented so far shows us that the theory of evolution is a incompatible with scientific findings. The theory's claim regarding the origin of life is inconsistent with science, the evolutionary mechanisms it proposes have no evolutionary power, and fossils demonstrate that the required intermediate forms have never existed. So, it certainly follows that the theory of evolution should be pushed aside as an unscientific idea. This is how many ideas, such as the Earth-centered universe model, have been taken out of the agenda of science throughout history.

However, the theory of evolution is kept on the agenda of science. Some people even try to represent criticisms directed against it as an "attack on science." Why?

The reason is that this theory is an indispensable dogmatic belief for some circles. These circles are blindly devoted to materialist philosophy and adopt Darwinism because it is the only materialist explanation that can be put forward to explain the workings of nature.

Interestingly enough, they also confess this fact from time to time. A well-known geneticist and an outspoken evolutionist, Richard C. Lewontin from Harvard University, confesses that he is "first and foremost a materialist and then a scientist":

> It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is absolute, so we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.[105]

These are explicit statements that Darwinism is a dogma kept alive just for the sake of adherence to materialism. This dogma maintains that there is no being save matter. Therefore, it argues that inanimate, unconscious matter created life. It insists that millions of different living species (e.g., birds, fish, giraffes, tigers, insects, trees, flowers, whales, and human beings) originated as a result of the interactions between matter such as pouring rain, lightning flashes, and so on, out of inanimate matter. This is a precept contrary both to reason and science. Yet Darwinists continue to defend it just so as "not to allow a Divine Foot in the door."

Anyone who does not look at the origin of living beings with a materialist prejudice will see this evident truth: All living beings are works of a Creator, Who is All-Powerful, All-Wise, and All-Knowing. This Creator is God, Who created the whole universe from non-existence, designed it in the most perfect form, and fashioned all living beings.

The Theory of Evolution is the Most Potent Spell in the World

Anyone free of prejudice and the influence of any particular ideology, who uses only his or her reason and logic, will clearly understand that belief in the theory of evolution, which brings to mind the superstitions of societies with no knowledge of science or civilization, is quite impossible.

As explained above, those who believe in the theory of evolution think that a few atoms and molecules thrown into a huge vat could produce thinking, reasoning professors and university students; such scientists as Einstein and Galileo; such artists as Humphrey Bogart, Frank Sinatra and Luciano Pavarotti; as well as antelopes, lemon trees, and carnations. Moreover, as the scientists and professors who believe in this nonsense are educated people, it is quite justifiable to speak of this theory as "the most potent spell in history." Never before has any other belief or idea so taken away peoples' powers of reason, refused to allow them to think intelligently and logically and hidden the truth from them as if they had been blindfolded. This is an even worse and unbelievable blindness than the Egyptians worshipping the Sun God Ra, totem worship in some parts of Africa, the people of Saba worshipping the Sun, the tribe of Prophet Abraham (peace be upon him) worshipping idols they had made with their own hands, or the people of the Prophet Moses (peace be upon him) worshipping the Golden Calf.

In fact, God has pointed to this lack of reason in the Qur'an. In many verse, He reveals in many verses that some peoples' minds will be closed and that they will be powerless to see the truth. Some of these verses are as follows:

As for those who do not believe, it makes no difference to them whether you warn them or do not warn them, they will not believe. God has sealed

up their hearts and hearing and over their eyes is a blindfold. They will have a terrible punishment. (Qur'an, 2: 6-7)

… They have hearts with which they do not understand. They have eyes with which they do not see. They have ears with which they do not hear. Such people are like cattle. No, they are even further astray! They are the unaware. (Qur'an, 7: 179)

Even if We opened up to them a door into heaven, and they spent the day ascending through it, they would only say: "Our eyesight is befuddled! Or rather we have been put under a spell!" (Qur'an, 15: 14-15)

Words cannot express just how astonishing it is that this spell should hold such a wide community in thrall, keep people from the truth, and not be broken for 150 years. It is understandable that one or a few people might believe in impossible scenarios and claims full of stupidity and illogicality. However, "magic" is the only possible explanation for people from all over the world believing that unconscious and lifeless atoms suddenly decided to come together and form a universe that functions with a flawless system of organization, discipline, reason, and consciousness; a planet named Earth with all of its features so perfectly suited to life; and living things full of countless complex systems.

In fact, the Qur'an relates the incident of Prophet Moses and Pharaoh to show that some people who support atheistic philosophies actually influence others by magic. When Pharaoh was told about the true religion, he told Prophet Moses to meet with his own magicians. When Moses did so, he told them to demonstrate their abilities first. The verses continue:

He said: "You throw." And when they threw, they cast a spell on the people's eyes and caused them to feel great fear of them. They produced an extremely powerful magic. (Qur'an, 7: 116)

As we have seen, Pharaoh's magicians were able to deceive everyone, apart from Moses and those who believed in him. However, his ev-

idence broke the spell, or "swallowed up what they had forged," as the verse puts it.

> **We revealed to Moses, "Throw down your staff." And it immediately swallowed up what they had forged. So the Truth took place and what they did was shown to be false. (Qur'an, 7: 117-119)**

As we can see, when people realized that a spell had been cast upon them and that what they saw was just an illusion, Pharaoh's magicians lost all credibility. In the present day too, unless those who, under the influence of a similar spell, believe in these ridiculous claims under their scientific disguise and spend their lives defending them, abandon their superstitious beliefs, they also will be humiliated when the full truth emerges and the spell is broken. In fact, Malcolm Muggeridge, an atheist philosopher and supporter of evolution, admitted he was worried by just that prospect:

> **I myself am convinced that the theory of evolution, especially the extent to which it's been applied, will be one of the great jokes in the history books in the future.** Posterity will marvel that so very flimsy and dubious an hypothesis could be accepted with the incredible credulity that it has.[106]

That future is not far off: On the contrary, people will soon see that "chance" is not a deity, and will look back on the theory of evolution as the worst deceit and the most terrible spell in the world. That spell is already rapidly beginning to be lifted from the shoulders of people all over the world. Many people who see its true face are wondering with amazement how they could ever have been taken in by it.

They said, "Glory be to You! We have no knowledge except what You have taught us. You are the All-Knowing, the All-Wise." (Qur'an, 2: 32)

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